MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 MARCH 1983

Syria-Lebanon

Soviet Warning -- It is time for Israel to stop "playing with fire" and its "criminal designs" against Syria must be foiled, a Soviet Government statement carried by TASS asserted. Citing "alarming reports" of Israeli preparations for a military strike against Syria and claiming that heightened anti-Syrian "war hysteria" in Israel is being accompanied by renewed U.S. aid, the statement warned that Syria does not stand alone.

Israel on Military-Political Situation -- Israeli political sources view the Soviet warning to Israel not to attack Syria as a signal to the United States that no arrangement in the region is possible without the Soviet Union, Jerusalem radio reported. Despite recent "signs," the "major assessment" in Israel is that war between Israel and Syria will not break out in the coming period, the sources contended. Noting that presidential envoy Philip Habib would shortly return to Washington "emptyhanded," the radio said some Israeli political commentators consider that the Lebanon negotiations can be concluded only through a meeting between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and President Reagan. Israel has not yet reached the limit of its concessions on security arrangements and a compromise could be found over Major Sa'd Haddad's future role, the commentators said.

Tripartite Negotiations, Diplomacy -- Since the tripartite negotiations are currently "frozen," the 25th round of negotiations in Qiryat Shemona on 31 March is not expected to produce any important achievement, Beirut radio reported. The Voice of Lebanon reported that after a 31 March meeting between Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov and Foreign Minister Elie Salim, Soldatov described their talks as "important" but declined to say whether Salim had asked for Soviet help to secure the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. Earlier, a Lebanese Government source disclosed that Saudi Arabia is seeking to convene an Arab "minisummit" attended by the leaders of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO to agree on a plan to coordinate stands on the Lebanese and Palestinian issues, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported citing "unconfirmed press information."

Military, Security Situation -- The IDF used tank and cannon fire against a squad of "terrorists" hiding in Dayr al-Harf village north of the Beirut-Damascus highway, Jerusalem radio reported citing the IDF spokesman. Claiming that the squad responsible for a recent attack on an Israeli patrol near Beirut came from the village, the radio said the Israelis opened fire after another "terrorist" squad was spotted crossing the Beirut River. Although the radio did not say the fighting involved the Syrians, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that the IDF traded fire with Syrian and Palestinian positions in the are. The radio also cited reports of further Syrian-Israeli exchanges of automatic fire in the Al-Biqa' Valley.

Israel

Land Day Incidents -- Prime Minister Begin's Arab affairs adviser stated that this year's "Land Day" passed "relatively quietly" as compared with last year, according to ITIM. He noted that although some incidents occurred such as stonethrowing and flying PLO flags, public order was mainly disrupted by youths. According to a related Jerusalem radio report, 11 people were injued by stonethrowing in Ad-Duhayshah.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Damascus from Kuwait following talks with Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, according to KUNA and Radio Monte Carlo. During an address at a Syrian rally commemorating Land Day reported by Radio Monte Carlo, 'Arafat attacked the "settlement plans" underway in the region and declared that "the revolution will continue until all of Palestine is liberated." 'Arafat revealed that he had received a Soviet envoy less than a week ago who had asked him about his stand on President Reagan's peace plan, to which the PLO leader replied: "What the United States and Israel failed to obtain from us through war they will not obtain through maneuvers and by beating about the bush." On the issue of POW exchanges, 'Arafat stressed the "irrevocable decision" of the PLO Executive Committee that the eight Israeli prisoners will be released only if all the detainees in Ansar camp are released.

In another development PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir arrived in Amman to participate in 'Arafat's talks with Jordanian officials which are expected to begin on 31 March, the Jordanian paper AD-DUSTUR reported on 31 March.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Meetings -- Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, announced that the extraordinary session of the Jerusalem Committee scheduled for 3 April has been postponed until 10 April due to current commitments of the committee members and their desire to attend the meeting given its importance, SPA reported. In another development the meeting of the Arab seven-member committee has been canceled and will be replaced by an emergency Arab summit that is expected to be held 10-15 April, WAKH disclosed. According to a related INA report, Moroccan envoys will shortly begin delivering letters from Morocco's King Hassan II to Arab leaders inviting them to attend the emergency Arab summit. Official Moroccan sources said the proposed summit will discuss the current Arab situation and the future Arab action plan in light of visits paid by the seven-member committee to the UN Security Council permanent member states, INA added.

Jordanian-Omani Talks -- Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah discussed Israel's settlement policy, current Arab affairs and bilateral relations, Amman television reported.

Algeria

Algerian troops recently clashed with Polisario guerrillas returning to their base in southern Algeria with heavy equipment and vehicles supplied by Libya, AFP reported citing the Spanish paper DIARIO 16. Several people were killed in the fighting, which started when the Algerians ordered the Saharan guerrillas to drive back to Libya, the paper said.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 063 *31 March 1983*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

INA: PLO, Saudis Working for Arab Summit A 1
WAKH: Seven-Member Committee Meeting Canceled A 1
Jerusalem Committee Session Postponed to 10 Apr [SPA] A 1
'Arafat Addresses Land Day Rally in Damascus [Radio Monte Carlo] A 1
'Arafat Interviewed by ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT [30 Mar] A 2
Arab League Statement on Janin Incidents [Tunis] A 4

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Amir Receives 'Arafat for Meeting 30 March C 1
'Arafat Departs 30 Mar C 1

QATAR

Environmental Committee Discusses Oil Slick C 1

PDRY

Cabinet Affairs Minister Returns to Aden C 2
Correction to PDRY Official Arrives With Message C 2
Briefs: Czechoslovak Trade Union Delegation; Ambassador Appointments C 2

EGYPT

Agriculture Secretary Block Visits, Meets Wali D 1
Mubarak Receives Block D 1
Mubarak Greets U.S. Congressmen 29 March D 2
Oil Price Reduction Not To Affect Production D 2
Ghali Urges Israel Recognize Palestinian Rights D 2
Muhyi ad-Din Discusses Economic Issues 30 Mar D 3
New Naval Commander Appointed Effective 1 April D 3
Mubarak Receives Sudanese Chief of Staff D 3
Sudanese Parliamentary Delegation Arrives D 3

JORDAN

Khalil al-Wazir Arrives in Amman 30 Mar [AD-DUSTUR 31 Mar] F 1
'Arafat Arrives 31 Mar F 1
Sulayman 'Arar Meets With European Delegation F 1

LEBANON

Soviet Envoy Holds Discussion With Salim G 1
Makes Statement G 1
'Clear Warning' to Israel G 1
Withdrawal Negotiations To Be Intensified G 1
Negotiations 'Frozen' Pending Habib Mission G 2
Al-Jumayyil Briefs Cabinet on Political State G 2
Delegations Meet in Qiryat Shemona 31 March G 3
Spokesman Comments on Talks G 3
Salam, Hurd Meet Al-Jumayyil, Make Statements G 4
Hurd Criticizes Continued Israeli Presence G 4
Al-Wazzan, Callaghan Discuss UNIFIL Affairs G 5
Lebanon Detains Missile-Carrying FRG Freighter [DPA] G 5
Walid Junblatt, Delegation Visit USSR G 5
[cross-reference]

SYRIA

'Arafat Arrives in Damascus for Talks 30 March H 1
[Radio Monte Carlo]
Attends Rally H 1
TISHRIN Highlights Soviet Warning to Israel H 1
Al-Asad Receives Syrian CP Official 29 March H 2
Turkish Foreign Minister Leaves 30 March H 2
Talas Meets With Nicaraguan Delegation H 2
Assembly Considers Nuclear Ties With USSR H 2

ISRAEL

Radio Assesses Habib-Shamir-Arens Meetings 30 Mar I 1
Lebanon Talks Begin in Qiryat Shemona 31 Mar I 1
More on Talks I 2
Schiffer Comments on Israeli Position on Haddad I 2
POST on Extent of Israeli, Lebanese Concessions [30 Mar] I 3
Further Details on IDF 'Terorist' Incident I 3
Syrian Activity in Lebanese Eastern Sector Reported I 4
Radio Reports Soviet Communique 30 March I 4
'Sources' on Soviet Warning, Begin-Reagan Meeting I 4
JERUSALEM STAR Reports PLO's Qaddumi's Remarks [31 Mar] I 5
Jibril Reportedly Refuses Visits to Prisoners I 6
More on Israeli Prisoners [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 31 Mar] I 7
Begin Adviser Says Land Day Passes 'Quietly' I 7

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

AFP: Polisario Guerrillas Clash With Troops Q 1
Moroccan Foreign Minister on Unannounced Visit [KUNA] Q 1
Bendjedid Message Supports Frontline States Q 1
Statement With Burundi Supports Freedom Struggles Q 2
FLN Signs Communique With Sao Tome-Principe Q 2

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Officers in Tobruk Q 3
Foreign Liaison Bureau Condemns U.S. on Grenada Q 3
Appointment of U.S. Ambassador to Chad Attacked Q 4
Soviet Groups Greet Al-Qadhdhafi on Anniversary Q 5

MOROCCO

Further on Remarks by Spain's Gonzalez to Press [EFE] Q 5

SUDAN

Vice President on Disruptive Effect of Rumors Q 6

TUNISIA

Report Ratifies Work of Joint Libyan Commission Q 7

EAST AFRICA

DJIBOUTI

Kuwaiti Daily Interviews President Hassan Gouled R 1
[AL-QABAS 25 Mar]

ETHIOPIA

Vlasov-Led CPSU Delegation Departs 25 March R 2
Mengistu Opens COPWE Plenary Meeting 25 March R 3
Bonn Embassy Denies Reports on Relief Diversion [DPA] R 3
Eritreans Reject Ethiopian Government Solutions [WAKH] R 4

TANZANIA

Coup Plot Trial Adjourned Until 8 April R 4

UGANDA

Muwamga Says Rebels Surrounded in Luwero R 5

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 30 March U 1
UNITA To Release Portuguese Nun, Children U 1

LESOTHO

Foreign Minister Reacts to S. African Response U 1

SOUTH AFRICA

Transkei Involvement in Lesotho Attack Denied U 2
[RAND DAILY MAIL 30 Mar]
Parties Nominate Candidates for Byelections U 3

ZAMBIA

Civil Servants Union Demands Pay Increase U 3
President Kaunda Comments on Regional Issues U 4
[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]

ZIMBABWE

Catholic Bishops Charge 'Reign of Terror' U 5
Minister Responds to Allegations U 6
Newspaper Supports Expulsion of Journalists U 7
Minister Says Public in Matabeleland To Be Armed U 7
Joshua Nkomo To Postpone Return to Country U 7

INA: PLO, SAUDIS WORKING FOR ARAB SUMMIT

JN300930 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Mar (INA) -- Press reports said here today that a Palestinian move, which is accompanied by a Saudi move, is aimed at holding an Arab summit conference to discuss the results of the Arab seven-member committee's activities in and tours of the capitals of the big powers and to decide on the next step. The Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, which carried this report without citing the source, added that there is a very strong possibility an Arab summit will be held since 15 countries have already agreed to it.

WAKH: SEVEN-MEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING CANCELED

GF301812 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1748 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Rabat, 30 Mar (WAKH) -- WAKH's correspondent in Rabat has learned that the meeting of the Arab seven-member committee has been canceled and that it will be replaced by an emergency Arab summit that is expected to be held in the period 10-15 April. The correspondent quoted informed Palestinian sources in Rabat as saying today that the site of the Arab summit meeting will be Morocco because it will be an extraordinary meeting.

JERUSALEM COMMITTEE SESSION POSTPONED TO 10 APR

LD302135 Riyadh SPA in English 1921 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Jidda, March 30, SPA -- The extraordinary session of the Jerusalem Committee, scheduled in Fes, Morocco on Sunday, has been postponed until April 10, it was announced here today.

In a statement to SPA, Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) Habib Chatti, said the adjustment was due to current commitments of the committee's members and their desire to attend the meeting personally due to its importance.

The ICO-affiliated committee is headed by King Hassan of Morocco and includes foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Niger, Pakistan, Senegal, and Syria in addition to the Palestine Liberation Organsation (PLO).

'ARAFAT ADDRESSES LAND DAY RALLY IN DAMASCUS

JN302115 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2045 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Louis Faris in Damascus]

[Text] In the wake of his arrival in Damascus, Yasir 'Arafat attended a mammoth popular rally on Land Day. Yasir 'Arafat delivered a fiery speech in which he attacked the settlement plans underway in the region. He added: Some are trying to sell the land, and they say that the choice is between the PLO and the land. Yasir 'Arafat added verbatim: I say that the land is the PLO and that the PLO is the revolution, which in turn is the people. I say this so that the far and near can hear me, particularly Reagan and Begin and their colleagues in the region.

In an evident stiffening of the Palestinian stand, Yasir 'Arafat said: The attempt they are making is to justify the erection of barriers between the people and their organisation. Let all those who are speaking about the plans of settlement hear me say this: The revolution will continue until all of Palestine is liberated.

Yasir 'Arafat revealed that he had received a Soviet envoy less than a week ago who had asked him about his stand on Reagan's plan. Yasir 'Arafat answered him with the following: What the United States and Israel failed to obtain from us through war they will not obtain through maneuvers or by beating about the bush.

For the first time Yasir 'Arafat touched on the subject of his succession. Interrupting the crowd which was cheering him, Yasir 'Arafat said: I am mortal; all of us are mortals I will be replaced by my comrade in arms and struggle. Observers and diplomats who were there understood from this that he meant Khalil al-Wazir.

Observers also noted that Yasir 'Arafat has chosen the Syrian capital and Land Day to announce a stand on the political issues and that this comes after the completion of an Arab tour. 'Arafat stated that he accepts only the Fes summit resolutions and those of the PNC.

Yasir 'Arafat also revealed another stiffening of the Palestinian stand on the issue of exchanging prisoners. Addressing the detainees in the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon, Yasir 'Arafat said that the PLO Executive Committee had adopted an irrevocable decision to the effect that the eight Israeli prisoners will be released only if all the detainees in the Ansar camp are released.

'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED BY ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT

PM311015 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Qasim as-Samawi in Baghdad "before leaving for Kuwait yesterday": "My Visit to Jordan Is Extremely Important"]

[Excerpt] [Question] The whole world is talking about the results of your coming meetir with King Husayn in the light of the current intensive talks now taking place in Amman and other Arab capitals. Have you come to a final view or final decision regarding those talks?

[Answer] I am not carried away by media speculation. My meetings with brother Arab officials are not for courtesy only, though courtesy is important. Rather, during such visits, I concentrate on all aspects of the Palestinian problem, particularly in the present conditions where events relating to the Palestine problem and the Middle East in general are developing fast. Following the escalation of attacks on our Lebanese and Palestinian peoples by the Israeli enemy and his aggressive forces and after what happened and is happening in the Palestinian camps, which have been erased as a result of bombing and invasion that completely destroyed 18 Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon and partially or completely destroyed 22 Lebanese villages, in addition to the terrible destruction inflicted on three major Lebanese cities -- Tyre, Sidon, and An-Nabatiyah -- and the abominable crime against Beirut and its residents; all these issues and the outcome of the Arab seven-member committee meetings, current developments on the level of the Arab nation and the Palestinian level in particular, including what is currently happening against our people in the occupied territories -- all these call upon us to adopt a responsible attitude toward such events and issues. Therefore, meetings and consultations in light of new developments are indisputably of particular importance -- an importance to which press reports add sensationalism. I believe that my meeting with His Majesty King Husayn at this juncture in particular is an important matter, very important.

[Question] Press reports said that important matters were discussed with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz during your recent surprise visit to the Kingdom. Can you tell us something that might throw light on this visit and the talks you held in Riyadh?

[Answer] In fact this was not a suprise visit but rather was previously arranged. I discussed with King Fahd all issues and matters relating to the Palestine problem, particularly the current developments and the work of the Arab seven-member committee, which has completed its first mission after visiting London. I also discussed with King Fahd the problems of my brothers and kinfolk in the occupied territories and the crimes being daily committed against them. I also discussed the wonderful and powerful popular uprising by our people against the Zionist challenges. I exchanged views on the abominable crime which Menahem Begin and his troops tried to commit by blowing up the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, bearing in mind that His Majesty King Fahd and the Saudi Kingdom adopt a firm stand on the Palestine problem. My Brother King Fahd is also the chairman of the Islamic Conference, which looks after the preservation of Islamic holy shrines. I found his majesty responsive and he showed firmness and positiveness during my talks with him.

[Question] What is the Jerusalem Committee, which is to meet in Morocco, required to do in the present circumstances?

[Answer] It was I who called for this meeting following the attempts by Begin and his gang. It transpired that those who stormed Al-Aqsa and tried to blow it up were Isreali army soldiers. Witnesses, some of whom are not Arabs or Palestinians, have confirmed this incident. Some journalists saw Israeli soldiers with their uniforms and arms heard them say that their aim was to destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque so as to rebuild the temple on its remains. Therefore, I deemed it my duty to approach all friends in the world, foremost of which is the Jerusalem Committee set up by the Islamic Conference, in order to carry out their duty in this matter which concerns not only the Palestinians and the Arabs but also Muslims and Christians as well. We must bear in mind that the Zionists have incessantly been interfering with Christian communities in Jerusalem, as happened a few weeks ago. It was yet another crime to be added to the previous crimes of those who, with the open collusion of the U.S. Administration, have never stopped committing crimes, of which the Sabra and Shatila crime was not the last. For this reason I called on King Hassan II to take urgent measures to confront this serious situation.

[Question] What was the nature of the talks you had in Baghdad with President Saddam Husayn and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz?

[Answer] I held important and intensive talks with President Saddam Husayn. We had a lengthy discussion about the outcome of the work of the Arab seven-member committee, the results it achieved, and current developments in the Arab area in the light of the rapidly developing events. We also discussed the conditions of our people in the occupied territories and the new Zionist crimes there. We also discussed Iraqi-Palestinian relations. I found President Saddam Husayn very anxious to continue to support the Palestinian stand. The Iraqi president, government, and people adopt a firm stand in supporting our people's just cause and the Palestinian revolutionaries' struggle on all levels.

I had intensive talks with Brother Tariq 'Aziz regarding all aspects of the Palestinian situation, including the question of the Jerusalem Committee and the coordination of stands in the face of the new crimes Israel is committing against our people and holy places.

[Question] Did you discuss the Iraq-Iran war in the talks with President Saddam Husayn or Tariq 'Aziz and were any new ideas discussed?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the war was one of the important points dealt with in the talks, particularly since, as is known, I submitted at the Nonaligned Summit in New Delhi a proposal which the conference adopted ending the war. I have written to Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi about this subject and President Saddam Husayn gave me the freedom to follow up the matter with the Indian prime minister, who is also chairman of the conference.

[Question] A new crime is being committed by the Zionists against young people and children of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. What do you have to say about this new crime?

[Answer] This is a genocide campaign, not just killings of my people and brothers in the occupied territories. It has been established that the purpose of the poisonous substance given to the young students is to stop procreation. I am surprised how the world keeps silent over this crime; this silence can only be collusion by the whole world and the world conscience. Is nobody moving and taking effective measures against this ugly crime? So far some 600 female students have been affected by this crime. Therefore, through you, I would like to address an appeal to every living conscience, every man who believes in mankind, every friend in the world, every civilized person, and every nationalist in this world to take effective and firm stems to stop the crime of genocide which the criminals and murderers are committing against our people, the criminals who, having failed to confront our heroes in Beirut, resorted to the Sabra and Shatila massacre and are now resorting to this abominable crime. I wonder: Is world opinion in the West, especially U.S. public opinion, which supports Israel, still in a state of slumber, or is it colluding with those murderers? I have information that the Israeli military establishment is putting this poisonous substance in the houses of our people in the occupied territories during the house search and terrorist operations they carry out against our sons. This is genocide, after the attempts to slaughter our people everywhere have failed.

ARAB LEAGUE STATEMENT ON JANIN INCIDENTS

LD310621 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The Arab Leage Council, which is currently in session in Tunis, has issued a statement on the use of chemicals to poison students of secondary schools in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Council condemns this crime which was committed against defenseless students and teachers of the secondary schools and which is aimed at their extermination and at evacuating the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories of their Arab population according to Isreal's expansion schemes. The Council calls upon the international community and public opinion to condemn these crimes, to call for an immediate end to them, and to adopt effective measures to protect the citizens in the occupied territories. It also calls upon WHO and the International Red Cross to take immediate measures to investiage these racist actions and the health consequences which ensue from them. It asks the UN secretary general to send a team to investigate the crimes currently being committed in the occupied territories contrary to international treaties and to organize the trial of those who are responsible for this crime against humanity. It calls upon the great powers, which have special responsibility in perserving the international peace and security, and all countries of the world to perform their duties toward this gross aggression against human rights in the occupied territories in the treaties adopted by the international community, which include the convention on the prevention of genocide and the Hague treaty on banning chemical armaments as guarantees of human [word indistinct], freedom, and liberty.

KUWAIT

AMIR RECEIVES 'ARAFAT FOR MEETING 30 MARCH

LD301133 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] At 1030 today, his highness the amir received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by the minister of health and director of the organization's office in Kuwait.

'Arafat Departs 30 Mar

LD301415 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1211 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Mar (KUNA) -- The leader of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat, today headed for Damascus on a visit. No information is available on whether he will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Relations between the two sides have been noticeably cool since the end of last summer's war in Lebanon between the PLO and the Israeli occupation forces. 'Arafat and Al-Asad have met only once since the Palestinian resistance forces' departure from Beirut at the end of last August under pressure from an Israeli siege.

'Arafat described the talks he had today with the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, as being successful, positive, and beneficial. He said the talks dealt with the developments taking place in the region, the activities of the Arab seven-member committee set up by the Fes conference, "and the proposal calling for an all-embracing Arab summit or a minisummit of the member states of the committee." He pointed out that the success of the anticipated summit depends on "the results of the contacts to be held by King Hassan II of Morocco."

QATAR

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSES OIL SLICK

GF301950 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1918 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Doha, 30 Mar (WAKH) -- The standing committee for environmental protection in the State of Qatar held a meeting today to discuss necessary measures for the protection of Qatar's coasts and waters from the dangers of pollution as a result of the oil leaking from Iranian oil wells into Gulf waters.

Dr Hajar Ahmad Hajar, Qatari Health Ministry under secretary and deputy chairman of the committee, stated that it was decided to submit a memorandum to Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, deputy amir and heir apparent, to explain the measures necessary to protect Gulf waters against the hazard of pollution.

He said that the committee considers the oil slick in the Gulf waters a disaster that is threatening marine resources and Qatari and Gulf coasts.

He said the committee has developed a plan for protecting the territorial (?waters) of the State of Qatar, foremost of which are the regions of water desalination and the industrial areas.

PDRY

CABINET AFFAIRS MINISTER RETURNS TO ADEN

GF301432 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of state for Cabinet affairs, returned to Aden from San'a' today after a visit lasting several days to the northern part of the homeland.

ANA has learned that the minister carries a verbal message for Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, from Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, on unity coordination issues between the two parts of the homeland.

CORRECTION TO PDRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "PDRY Official Arrives With Message," published in the 29 March Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT, page C 4, first paragraph, line 1:

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah Salim Ghanim, minister of state...(correcting name)

second paragraph, line 8:

...committees of unity in the service of the goals of our Yemeni people.

He was greeted upon his arrival by Brother Ahmad ash-Shijni, minister of state for people's constituent assembly affairs and member of the standing committee, and Brother Muhammad al-'Ammari, director of the unity affairs office. (correcting queried words and supplying indistinct passage)

BRIEFS

CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE UNION DELEGATION -- 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, received in his office yesterday Comrade Bezel, member of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and deputy chairman of the Trade Unions Central Council. During the meeting, the two sides lauded the developing relations between the two trade union organizations. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Mar 83 GF] -- The Czechoslovak Trade Union delegation led by Comrade Bezel, member of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Central Communist Party and deputy chairman of the Trade Unions Central Council, left Aden today following an official visit to the PDRY. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Mar 83 GF]

AMBASSADOR APPOINTMENTS -- Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has issued decrees appointing Brother Ahmad Salih Hajib as the PDRY nonresident Ambassador to Malta and appointing Brother 'Umar Husayn al-Huraybi as the PDRY nonresident Ambassador to Nicaragua. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Mar 83 GF]

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BLOCK VISITS, MEETS WALI

NC281416 Cairo MENA in English 1200 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 28 (MENA) -- State Minister for Agriculture and Food Security Dr Yusuf Wali discussed today with the American Secretary of Agriculture John Block possible American aid to promote the Egyptian agriculture production and developing the fish wealth.

At the meeting attended by Minister of Planning Dr Kamal al-Janzuri and the U.S. ambassador here Alfred Atherton, Dr Wali affirmed that Egypt's agricultural development plan aims at intensifying the training programmes and introducing agricultural mechanization to the different main crops.

John Block expounded the American policy regarding agriculture and said that it aims at expanding cooperation with the different world countries to help produce more food for the different areas.

Dr al-Janzuri then spoke of Egypt's agricultural development plan and said it aims at providing all the necessary agricultural requirements of the citizens in addition to attaining a surplus for exportation. He added that the Egyptian policy regarding prices of import products is linked to the world prices.

Block is due to leave here tomorrow following a four-day visit to Egypt.

Mubarak Receives Block

NC281304 Cairo MENA in English 1130 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 28 (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received this morning at Al-'Urubah Palace U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block and his accompanying delegation. State Minister for Agriculture and Food Security Dr Yusuf Wali and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Alfred Altherton attended the meeting. President Mubarak discussed with the American secretary of agriculture the aid programme particularly in regard to food and especially wheat, State Minister for Agriculture Dr Yusuf Wali said later.

The American secretary of agriculture has affirmed to President Mubarak that the United States is committed to the aid programme, Dr Wali said adding that the United States has recently extended grains to Egypt which are equivilant to 30 million dollars in addition to the continuous shipments of wheat.

Dr Wali said further that there is an Egyptian-American cooperation in a number of projects particularly in the fields of industrial complexes, training, and the exchanges of visits and expertises, Dr Wali said.

Block said he discussed with President Mubarak the strong cooperation ties between Egypt and the U.S. in the field of agriculture especially as regards modern agricultural technology. The U.S. secretary of agriculture asserted that the programme of American aid to Egypt is running according to the agreed upon schedule, adding that there is a tangible progress in this respect. Block said he is happy during his visit here to go on a field tour with his Egyptian counterpart to review a number of agricultural ventures in Egypt. He said he will also be happy to brief the Egyptian minister of agriculture on some agricultural activities in the U.S. during the latter's future visit to America. The American official also pointed out that a decree had been recently released by the American Government earmarking 50 million dollars in aid to Egypt in the form of diversified loans, including 20 million dollars in grains and 30 millions in tobacco.

MUBARAK GREETS U.S. CONGRESSMEN 29 MARCH

NC291330 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak received at Al-'Urubah Palace this morning U.S. Congressmen Les Aspin and Louis Stokes. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton.

OIL PRICE REDUCTION NOT TO AFFECT PRODUCTION

NC291322 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Petroleum 'Izz ad-Din Hilal has said that oil production in Egypt will not be affected by the international reduction of oil prices. He said that the production of oil in Egypt is fixed according to sound technical principles as far as crude oil and gases are concerned.

During a meeting with the secretaries of the National Democratic Party fund in the governorates and the students at the national studies center, Hilal explained that our production next year, 1983-84, will rise to 40 million tons indicating an increase of 3 million tons over the current year.

Hilal said that a new field for production of oil will be opened in Sinai on 10 April, that this field will produce 15,000 barrels of crude oil daily, and that production will rise to 60,000 barrels a day when the development of the field is completed. He added that a new well will be opened toward the middle of next year in the western desert and that its capacity will be 5,000 barrels daily.

Hilal pointed out that locally no increase has been made in the sale prices of oil products.

Hilal said that the oil sector has given $2,725 million to the state treasury during the current year 1982-83 and that during next year 1983-84, the oil sector will give $2,232 million despite the fact that oil prices have been reduced internationally.

GHALI URGES ISRAEL RECOGNIZE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

NC301522 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1438 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that the Israeli Government must realize that there can be no peace in the Middle East if the Palestinian people do not attain their legitimate rights and retrieve their land.

In a statement he made today on the occasion of Land Day, Dr Ghali said what is first required is to stop the building of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza sector and demolish the settlements which have been built in line with what took place in Sinai.

The minister of state for foreign affairs added: Egypt, both people and government, reaffirm their solidarity with the Palestinian people and their sons in the occupied territory, who are being subjected to the Israeli acts of repression and coercion. Egypt's support is not confined to statements and articles but it is crystallized in a clear, substantial way represented in the continuous Egyptian diplomatic move for the sake of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Dr Ghali pointed out that international society, which decided that 30 March each year will be a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people's regaining their land, has often stressed the Palestinian people's right to determine their future like all the world's peoples.

MUHYI AD-DIN DISCUSSES ECONOMIC ISSUES 30 MAR

NC301657 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din today held a meeting which was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, deputy prime minister and minister of state for education and scientific research, and the ministers of reconstruction, transport, irrigation, electricity, culture, Cabinet affairs, agriculture, economy, supply, industry, and planning.

Minister of International Investment and Cooperation Dr Wajih Shindi said Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din reviewed questions related to President Husni Mubarak's forthcoming visits to Japan, North Korea, China, and Indonesia. Economic cooperation between Egypt and various states, international and regional organizations, and the investment of the grants and loans which Egypt received from 1975 through mid-1982 were also reviewed. The prime minister demanded the speeding up of the conclusion of contracts for projects on which the various ministries are preparing detailed reports on the investment of loans and grants. He also demanded the holding of joint meetings among those responsible for the investment of loans in each ministry and the officials in the international investment and cooperation ministry.

Dr Shindi added that the total contracts actually concluded on the loans and grants made available until 30 June 1982 amounted to approximately 72 percent of these loans and grants. This is considered a high average. He said the sums involved have been invested in state-owned projects, foremost of which are the basic utilities such as potable water, hygenic sewage, educational and medical services, road construction, and railroad modernization as well as the production projects. Foremost among the production projects are the agricultural projects which seek to raise the standard of the agricultural crop and set up agricultural and industrial projects. These sums have also been invested in projects for the modernization of the spinning and weaving industries and increasing the production of cement, reinforced steel, and fertilizers.

NEW NAVAL COMMANDER APPOINTED EFFECTIVE 1 APRIL

NC301406 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued a presidential decree appointing Staff Rear Admiral 'Ali Muhammad Tawfiq Jadd as commander of the naval forces effective 1 April 1983.

MUBARAK RECEIVES SUDANESE CHIEF OF STAFF

NC301008 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Sudanese Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Tawfiq Abu Kadok, who is currently visiting Cairo.

SUDANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ARRIVES

NC311006 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0939 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA) -- A Sudanese parliamentary delegation, headed by Husayn Mahmud Ahmad Amin, the secretary general of the People's Assembly, arrived in Cairo this morning. The delegation will join 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid, the Assembly speaker, who arrived in Cairo 2 days ago.

During this visit, the delegation will hold consultations with the Egyptian officials to continue following up the measures aimed at achieving integration and at forming the Nile Valley Parliament.

KHALIL AL-WAZIR ARRIVES IN AMMAN 30 MAR

JN310811 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is due in Amman today for a visit of several days to Jordan. During his visit he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking Jordanian officials.

In another development, Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, arrived in Amman yesterday to take part in 'Arafat's talks in Jordan.

'Arafat Arrives 31 Mar

JN311238 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Amman, 31 March (INA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman today on a visit of several days to Jordan. During his visit he will hold talks with King Husayn on the latest developments on the Palestinian question and on relations between Jordan and the PLO.

SULAYMAN 'ARAR MEETS WITH EUROPEAN DELEGATION

JN301606 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Amman, 30 Mar (PETRA) -- National Consultative Council Speaker Sulayman 'Arar has said that the critical circumstances through which the region is passing are the outcome of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and other Arab territories, and the threats to launch aggressions against the Arab states.

'Arar, who was speaking during his meeting with the European Parliament delegation currently visiting Jordan, added that this continued anxiety in the region will have a great effect on the world, and that Europe must intensify its efforts to achieve a just peace in the region.

'Arar stressed that the attempts to impose a status quo are considered as a request to the Arab nation to capitulate, and that this is a matter which no one can accept. He reaffirmed that Jordan's declared stand is to accept peace based on justice and the acknowledgement of Arab rights.

'Arar added that Israel constantly rejects the logic of peace and justice at a time when it is still occupying territories of Arab states which are members of the United Nations.

'Arar spoke about the historical relationship between Europe and the Arab world, saying that Europe's security is linked to that of the Middle East.

Speaking in reply, the head of the European delegation stressed Europe's interest in the Middle East issue, and expressed hope that economic relations between Europe and the Arab world will be promoted.

The delegation members pointed out that the European statements, the most recent being the Brussels statement, have condemned the Israeli measures and the policy of settlements, and called for the achievement of a just settlement which guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

SOVIET ENVOY HOLDS DISCUSSIONS WITH SALIM

NC310840 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] In a statement following a meeting with the foreign minister that ended a short while ago, the Soviet ambassador said that the discussions were important, particularly the views that Minister Salim set forth. He added: On our part, we have expounded on the Soviet stand. Soldatov, however, declined to say whether Minister Salim asked for Soviet help in bringing about the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

Makes Statement

NC310930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister De Elie Salim this morning met with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov, who was accompanied by the first counselor of the Soviet Embassy in Beirut.

After the meeting, Soldatov said: This is the first meeting with Minister Salim since my return from the Soviet Union. The meeting is important to us in light of the views expressed by the foreign minister.

Answering a question about the escalation of media [attacks] between Syria and Israel and whether this escalation would lead to a military clash, the Soviet ambassador said: The Soviet Union's stand in this respect was reflected in the statement issued yesterday by the Soviet Government. Afterward, Minister Salim received the ambassadors of the EC accredited to Lebanon.

'Clear Warning' to Israel

NC311050 Paris AFP in English 1014 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Beirut, March 31 (AFP) -- A Soviet statement that Israel is "playing with fire" with preparations for military action against Syria was intended as a "clear warning" to Israel, Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov said today.

In a communique published by TASS yesterday, the Soviet Government said Israeli leaders were speaking of the "inevitability" of a preventive war against Syria and warned Israel against "playing with fire" in the Middle East.

TASS warned that Syria was "not alone," but had the backing of "Arab patriots and socialist countries." Mr Soldatov was speaking after a meeting today with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim. Since his return to Beirut a month ago, Mr Soldatov has met a series of Lebanese leaders including President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan.

WITHDRAWAL NEGOTIATIONS TO BE INTENSIFIED

NC301602 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The 25th round of negotiations on the withdrawal will be held in Qiryat Shemona tomorrow. The Voice of Lebanon radio reporter has learned that the meetings will be intensified as of the coming week at the rate of four meetings a week to be held alternately in Khaldah and Netanya. It is understood that two meetings will be held in Khaldah on Mondays and Tuesdays and the other two meetings in Netanya on Thursdays and Fridays every week.

NEGOTIATIONS 'FROZEN' PENDING HABIB MISSION

NC301230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The tripartite negotiations are frozen pending the fourth round of U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Philip Habib's mission, which he will undertake after the Easter holidays, which he will spend in the United States. There, he will have the opportunity of holding consultations with U.S. officials concerning the next steps for furthering the negotiations and for ensuring the withdrawal of all foreign military forces from Lebanon in implementation of promises made by the U.S. Administration on more than one occasion to Lebanese officials.

Therefore, the 25th round of tripartite negotiations in Qiryat Shemona tomorrow is not expected to realize any important achievement because of Israeli conditions which Lebanon considers as crippling and an encroachment of the red line which Lebanon cannot go beyond in safeguarding its sovereignty and its basic rights.

Ambassador Habib carried the Lebanese stance regarding the new proposals to Israel before noon today to convey it to Israeli officials before leaving for the United States.

AL-JUMAYYIL BRIEFS CABINET ON POLITICAL STATE

NC302148 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] During the Cabinet meeting this evening, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil briefed the ministers on the political situation following an intensification of contacts with the various Lebanese leaders to consolidate accord and unify the ranks in confronting the dangers facing the homeland.

Regarding the negotiations, President al-Jumayyil affirmed that Lebanon was aware from the beginning that it was embarking on difficult and hard negotiations, but Lebanese negotiators were up to the required level. Efforts made have been sincere and praiseworthy, and many obstacles have been surmounted. However, he said, some thorny matters are still pending and we are still trying to resolve the difficulties.

President al-Jumayyil added: Therefore, the matter requires much time and great efforts to achieve the desired results. In this, we rely on our clear right to end the non-Lebanese armed and illegal presence on all Lebanese territory. President al-Jumayyil pointed out that, despite everything, the negotiations are proceeding along the right course and will inevitably reach a positive conclusion, especially since the United States continues to be committed to helping us liberate our land.

President al-Juamyyil described the recent meetings with the U.S. envoy as constructive. Ambassador Habib is expected to return to the area bringing with him practical proposals that will give momentum to the negotiations for a speedy solution.

On his part, the prime minister briefed the Cabinet on the discussions that had taken place in the Chamber of Deputies with the joint committees during the meeting chaired by Speaker Kamil al-As'ad which manifested a unified national stand on the principles and bases adopted by the Lebanese negotiators.

At the end of its meeting, the Cabinet made appropriate decisions on the subjects it discussed, including decisions on formations and promotions in the diplomatic corps. Among the most important decisions were the appointment of Fu'ad at-Turk as secretary general of the Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Ministry and Colonel Johnny 'Abduh as ambassador in the Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Ministry.

The Cabinet also decided to transfer Ambassador Khalil 'Itani from the Lebanese Embassy in Washington and to entrust him with a special task in North America.

DELEGATIONS MEET IN QIRYAT SHEMONA 31 MARCH

NC310904 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0830 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Report by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation in Qiryat Shemona -- live]

[Text] AT 1025 today the meetings of the official delegations began here in one of the halls of the cultural center. We have learned that the number of sessions today was not fixed nor was the nature of the talks. It is not known whether the three committees will meet or whether the session will stay a plenary one today. Therefore, there is nothing official as yet about the nature of today's session.

Spokesman Comments on Talks

NC311054 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0928 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Report by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation in Qiryat Shemona -- live]

[Text] Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, the official spokesman of the Lebanese delegation, came out a short while ago from the tripartite meeting and made the following statement on the session which began at 1025 and which is still in progress:

The plenary meeting today is devoted to studying the question of security arrangements. It is known that the security question constitutes the basic differences in the negotiations. At the outset of the meeting, the two delegations presented their views. The head of the Lebanese delegation said that the Lebanese Army will be strong and will be even stronger in the event an agreement is reached. He added that this agreement must be harmonious, well balanced, and within reasonable limits. This agreement, as it was decided from the very beginning, must be a comprehensive agreement. Lebanon has made important concessions on the question of mutual relations, but this must not be a reason to transgress on our sovereignty.

The head of the Lebanese delegation concluded by saying: Concessions by Israel in this respect, namely on security arrangements, will be useful and will be the beginning of a free and balanced agreement because if relations were between a strong and a weak side it would be bad for all.

This was the official statement made by Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, the official spokesman of the Lebanese delegation.

Subsequently, the military members of the Lebanese, U.S., and Israeli delegations began discussing the security arrangements within the plenary body.

Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, the session which began at 1025 today is still in progress in a plenary session. There will be no meetings of other countries.

SALAM, HURD MEET AL-JUMAYYIL, MAKE STATEMENTS

NC301302 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The negotiations question was the subject of discussion and appraisal at the Republican Palace at noon today between President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, between the president and British Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Douglas Hurd and also with former President Charles Hilu.

Salam said after the meeting that he discussed the new trends with the president. He denied that he had expressed pessimism in the statement he made yesterday after meeting with Ambassador Habib. He outlined that negotiations are taking place with Israel to end the occupation. He added: The negotiations include a tag-of-war and nail biting and we must have strong nerves so as not to budge from the limits to which we, official and people, committed ourselves. We have committed ourselves to not giving up our sovereignty or an inch of the land and to not affecting Lebanon's independence. We also committed ourselves to not giving up Lebanon's vital interest and Arab interests.

Answering a question Salam said: Washington has a great interest in these negotiations -- to safeguard the interests of the West and the U.S. vital interests both in the area and in the world. This is a very important thing. Therefore, he said, Washington has a responsibility it cannot abandon. We request Washington to assume its full responsibility.

After his meeting with President al-Jumayyil, British Minister of State Douglas Hurd said that President al-Jumayyil briefed him on his expectations for the future and details of progress made in rebuilding the armed forces and maintaining security in several Lebanese areas, particularly greater Beirut. He said: These were pleasant and important matters, particularly as we have been able to contribute toward this operation with a small British force.

Hurd added that the talks also dealt with the negotiations aimed at achieving withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Here also we are trying to contribute toward achieving this goal. We are in close contact with the Americans and the Israelis and with Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim.

The British minister of state believes that the withdrawal is necessary for the future and for Lebanon's existence. Noting that the negotiations with Israel are passing through a difficult phase and that the Syrian forces will not withdraw before concluding the negotiations with Israel, he said: We very much sympathize with the Lebanese stand. Lebanon wants to restore its independence but there other things which Lebanon cannot approve of in its capacity as an independent country.

HURD CRITICIZES CONTINUED ISRAELI PRESENCE

NC301314 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] At a news conference he held before visiting the Republican Palace, British Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Douglas Hurd criticized the continued Israeli presence in Lebanon. He called for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanese territory. He called on the Arabs to encourage Jordan to join the peace efforts. He regarded Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon as necessary for making Jordan join the comprehensive peace negotiations.

Hurd, who visited Jordan earlier, outlined that King Husayn sees an opportunity for peace and he wants to take advantage of it. However the king needs the support of the Arabs and of the PLO chairman in addition to ascertaining that the Israelis will withdraw from Lebanon.

Hurd added that it is necessary to criticize the continuing presence of Israeli forces in Lebanon and also the establishment of more settlements in the West Bank. He described Israel's settlement policy as a provocative policy.

Answering a question, Hurd said that the question of the continued presence of the British contingent in the multinational force will be decided upon by the government in London.

Hurd left Beirut at noon today for home.

AL-WAZZAN, CALLAGHAN DISCUSS UNIFIL AFFAIRS

NC300948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan yesterday met with UNIFIL commander General William Callaghan, with whom he discussed the affairs and administrative issues of southern Lebanon. They also reviewed the roles and missions of UNIFIL in addition to the general security situation in the areas of the UNIFIL operation.

After the meeting, Gen Callaghan denied that the emergency forces propose to withdraw from any village but stressed that the forces are constantly seeking to expand their deployment.

LEBANON DETAINS MISSILE-CARRYING FRG FREIGHTER

LD310217 Hamburg DPA in German 1641 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Beirut, 30 Mar (DPA) -- The German freighter Petra has been held in Beirut harbor since Monday after Lebanese security forces discovered missiles packed in crates on board. The rightwing-oriented Phalangist radio reported on Wednesday that the total of 51 missiles are freight taken on board in France and intended for Egypt. The ship's captain at first refused to give information about the contents of the crates, which were then forcibly opened.

WALID JUNBLATT, DELEGATION VISIT USSR

For Soviet media accounts of the visit to the USSR by Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, see the Middle East and North Africa section of the 29 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS FOR TALKS 30 MARCH

JN301642 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Damascus from Kuwait this afternoon.

'Arafat will deliver a speech at a popular rally this evening on the anniversary of Land Day. The rally will be attended by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, PLO Executive Committee members, and the secretaries general of the Palestinian resistance factions.

Attends Rally

JN302145 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The Syrian peasants federation, the Palestinian peasants federation, and the Palestinian revolution's factions held a massive rally this evening at Tishrin Hall on the anniversary of Land Day.

Present at the rally were Comrade Suhayl as-Suhayl, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's National Command and chairman of the national organizations office; the chairman and members of the PLO Executive Committee; leaders of the Palestinian revolution's factions; the chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army; several delegations representing Arab and international peasants federations; representatives of several Arab and friendly liberation movements; heads of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Damascus; and a large number of citizens.

TISHRIN HIGHLIGHTS SOVIET WARNING TO ISRAEL

JN310652 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN writes the following comment: All signs indicate that Israel is drawing up plans to carry out a major offensive against Syria. Israel has been leveling successive threats against Syria. Perhaps Moshe Levi, the incoming Zionist chief of staff, who expects war to break out in spring or summer, meant every single word he said. Prior to this new terrorist's assumption of power, the Israeli forces started reinforcing their positions along the lines facing our armed forces and positions.

The likelihood of an Israeli offensive actually exists. The Soviet Government's statement yesterday warned against Israel's war preparations, stressing that the Tel Aviv leaders continue to entertain evil intentions to deal a preventive strike against Syria, using Syria's possession of new weapons as the pretext. The Soviet Government, in its statement, affirmed that the goal of the aggression is other than that; rather, it is aimed at striking at Syria, which is the primary obstacle hindering the implementation of the Tel Aviv leaders' expansionist designs.

There is a fact that should be well realized by Israel and its mentors: Syria will not be taken by surprise nor will it be intimidated or its firm stand be harmed by the Israeli threats and U.S. support for Israel. Syria will not be alone in any battle. Syria has strong friends backing it with all their potentials.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES SYRIAN CP OFFICIAL 29 MARCH

JN291650 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received a delegation of the Syrian Communist Party Politburo led by Khalid Bakdash, the party's secretary general.

They discussed the current state of affairs in the region and Syria's leading role in confronting the imperialist and Zionist designs which aim at forcing the Arab nation to yield, at liquidating the Palestinian cause, and at subjugating the entire region.

Members of the Communist Party's Politburo spoke highly of the president's policy and voiced their support for it and for the president's brave stands. They called on all the national and progressive forces to rally around this policy. They asserted that all the forces of progress and peace in the world will stand alongside Syria in the face of imperialism and its plots against Syria.

The president thanked the Syrian Communist Party for its various stands and efforts to back the country's ability in the face of Zionism and imperialism.

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES 30 MARCH

JN300953 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen left Damascus this morning after a 4-day visit, during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. Seeing him off at Damascus International Airport was 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

TALAS MEETS WITH NICARAGUAN DELEGATION

JN310954 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 31 Mar (SANA) -- General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and defense minister, received here yesterday the Nicaraguan delegation led by Commander Victor Tirado Lopez, member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front. Major General Hasan Turkmani, deputy chief of staff, was present at the meeting. Last night, Gen Talas hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the guest delegation. In attendance were Maj Gen Hasan Turkmani and Major General 'Ali Aslan, deputies to the chief of staff.

Tirada arrived in Damascus at noon yesterday leading a government and party delegation on a visit of several days to Syria.

ASSEMBLY CONSIDERS NUCLEAR TIES WITH USSR

JN300958 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 30 Mar (SANA) -- The People's Assembly approved last night the admissibility, under the Constitution, of considering a bill ratifying the agreement which was initialed on 1 February 1983 in Moscow on cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The assembly also approved the admissibility of considering a bill ratifying the letters exchanged on the Soviet Government's agreement to provide technical assistance in building a 130-km railroad between Damascus and Dar'a, in southern Syria, in accordance with the terms of the agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

The assembly referred both bills to the appropriate committees to study them and submit their reports prior to discussion and ratification at a later session.

RADIO ASSESSES HABIB-SHAMIR-ARENS MEETING 30 MAR

TA301734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] U.S. mediator Philip Habib leaves for the United States tomorrow at the end of another round of talks in the area which did not produce any progress on the arrangements in Lebanon. Ambassador Habib conferred with the foreign and defense ministers this evening. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports on the meeting:

[Schiffer] As said, Philip Habib is leaving for Washington emptyhanded, and the more his mission is extended the more complicated it gets. This evening, Ministers Shamir and Arens again discussed Syria's intentions with the U.S. ambassador. Do they intend to get out? Is there not the danger that the Russians might torpedo any move? These were the questions raised at the meeting.

Habib sounded optimistic on this point. He said the Lebanese were in daily contact with the Syrians, and their impression is that their declarations to the effect that they would not get out of Lebanon until the last U.S. [as heard] soldier has left the place are meant for internal consumption. In any event, nobody will pressure you to leave Lebanon before the Syrians get out, Habib emphasized this evening.

Yitzhaq Shamir again asked Habib to find out what is happening with the Israeli POW's in Syria. Habib has already instructed the U.S. ambassador in Damascus to look into their fate. The Syrians replied that they were holding contacts only with the Red Cross. Habib also disclosed that Lebanese Government officials were holding contacts with PLO leaders regarding the Israeli POW's in their hands.

And what about the arrangements in Lebanon? As said, Habib did not bring any new proposals. The main bone of contention between the sides -- and it should be emphasized that this is also and particularly with the Americans -- refers to the status of Major Sa'd Haddad and his troops. The foreign minister said at the meeting that nobody in Israel would take responsibility for leaving southern Lebanon without ascertaining that Israel is leaving behind forces that can be trusted. Maj Haddad and his troops have proven themselves in the past, Minister Shamir stressed.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens stressed this point in another manner. He asked Habib how he thought the Lebanese Army would be able in the future to prevent infiltrations into Israel, incidents which it did not manage to prevent in the past?

In conclusion, it is no longer a question of negotiations between Israel and Lebanon. Matters have become complicated and the involvement of both superpowers has led the sides to be far more dependent on the superpowers' umbrella in the future, and this will dictate the nature of the arrangements.

As of this moment, Israel adheres to the position that there can be no arrangement without Haddad and his troops. The Lebanese, with U.S. backing, adhere to the position that the arrangements should not include Haddad. Everybody now will be waiting for so-called new proposals to rescue the negotiations.

LEBANON TALKS BEGIN IN QIRYAT SHEMONA 31 MAR

TA310908 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Another round in the talks between the Israel, Lebanese, and U.S. delegation began in Qiryat Shemona. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the talks began late since the heads of the Israeli and Lebanese delegations, David Kimche and Antoine Fattal, had a private talk about the status of Major Sa'd Haddad.

More on Talks

TA310955 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0945 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Correspondent Menahem Horowitz report from Qiryat Shemona]

[Text] The head of the Israeli delegation at the talks with Lebanon has said Israel cannot rely on the Lebanese Army at this stage to safeguard our northern border against terrorist infiltration. That Army, David Kimche said, has been severely damaged and thinned out over the last few years. Israel is therefore demanding special, unusual security arrangements. He also said that despite the freeze in the negotiations, there is still a chance of a breakthrough. This is because a failure in the negotiations would be dangerous for both nations, particularly for Lebanon.

Lebanese delegation head Antoine Fattal said that Lebanon alone had the duty to safeguard the security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

The talks between the delegations are now underway in Qiryat Shemona.

SCHIFFER COMMENTS ON ISRAELI POSITION ON HADDAD

TA301210 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Interview with political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer by Yig'al Rom on 30 March in Jerusalem]

[Text] [Question] Shim'on, you have reported that U.S. envoy Philip Habib will meet this afternoon with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens. What will they discuss?

[Answer] Habib is about to return to Washington after several rounds of talks here in the region in which he tried to bridge the gap between the positions of Lebanon and Israel. The main matter on which the two countries disagree -- and perhaps this is the most important matter in these negotiations -- is the special status Israel wants to give southern Lebanon through the stay of Major Haddad's forces there, with Haddad at their head, and with the responsibility for security in this area. There is no agreement on this matter between Israel and Lebanon, and it is especially important to note that there is no agreement between Israel and the United States.

The U.S. position, even before the Peace for Galilee operation, was that Maj Haddad should not be given control of southern Lebanon and that southern Lebanon should not be given special status. The matter of Haddad has become symbolic: a symbol, from Israel's point of view, of abiding cooperation between Israel and Haddad's forces and Haddad himself, and a symbol in the Arab world of treachery. This is what the negotiations are dealing with now, and on this matter Habib is trying to bridge positions and raise various proposals.

[Question] Was there some surprise over the report that Habib had come to Jerusalem today?

[Answer] Not everyone was surprised. Those who are very closely involved with these negotiations knew that Habib might return to Jerusalem to report on the results of his talks in Lebanon. It seems that he did not achieve anything in Lebanon, since the Lebanese are not budging -- with U.S. support -- for the meantime. Habib will return to Washington where he will have to come up with new ideas for bridging this gap, since it seems for the time being -- and I say, for the time being, because Israeli concessions are still possible -- our position is very determined.

We will make no concessions on Haddad, on Haddad's zone, or on this force defending southern Lebanon. However, when the time comes to make a decision -- will there be a settlement in Lebanon that will bring about the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon -- and the stumbling block is Haddad and his men, I would not bet that the Israeli Government will adhere to its present position.

POST ON EXTENT OF ISRAELI, LEBANESE CONCESSIONS

TA300704 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Landau]

[Excerpt] Both Israeli and Lebanese officials reiterated last night that they would make no further concessions towards a troop-withdrawal agreement.

Israeli officials said that Israel had reached "the furthest extent" of its concessions, and would not be able to give way on the question of the future role of Maj Sa'd Haddad, the Christian militia commander of south Lebanon. They said that no compromise formula was in the offing, and it seemed to them that the matter would be resolved only by one side -- namely Lebanon -- giving ground. They added that Israel had made numerous concessions in recent stages of the negotiations.

Using virtually the same vocabulary, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said last night that "we honestly declare that we are not going to go any further" in concessions. His remarks were carried by the government's national news agency.

Israel's position is that Haddad militiamen are virtually worthless without Haddad himself at their head. Israel continued to demand that the estimated 2,000-odd militiamen be integrated into the Lebanese Army as the nucleus of a "territorial brigade" to police the southern border area. The 2,000 figure comes from American sources. Israeli sources are reluctant to publicize any precise number.

Haddad's presence is "the irreducible minimum" from the standpoint of Israel's security concerns in south Lebanon, the officials added. "Without him -- we have nothing."

This was a reference to Israel's waiver of its earlier demand for IDF-manned military positions inside south Lebanon. Israel has since indicated it would make do with joint IDF-Lebanese patrols and no fixed IDF presence. The officials said the idea of a unilateral IDF withdrawal southwards to the Al-'Awwali River had not been raised in meetings with U.S. special envoy Philip Habib -- but it was "in the air, looming as a possible alternative." At the Cabinet on Sunday, four ministers proposed a unilateral pullback, and some army circles are believed to favour the idea.

Premier Menahem Begin and his senior ministers are opposed to it at this stage. But, said the officials last night, if the deadlock in the negotiations goes on for many more weeks, Israel will weigh this option as a practical alternative.

Israeli officials are convinced that Beirut would want to avoid a unilateral pullback -- for fear that in the long run it would reduce the chances of a complete withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

FURTHER DETAILS ON IDF 'TERRORIST' INCIDENT

IA310550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] In the incident developing between the IDF and terrorists on the Beirut-Damascus road yesterday, IDF artillery destroyed three houses in the village of Dayr al-Harf in the Al-Matn mountain chain.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the terrorist squad which perpetrated the terrorist act on the eve of the Passover holiday, during which an IDF soldier was killed, came from this village, which is under Syrian control.

[Begin Hecht recording] The Al-Matn area has been full of terrorist activity for several months now. With the Beirut brook in the middle, our forces on the southern slopes observe daily attempts by terrorist squads to cross the brook for terrorist missions in the IDF-controlled areas. Squads that carried out terrorist acts on the coastal road also set out from the Al-Matn region and reached their destination through the Christian lines in Beirut. Terrorist squads that were trained in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' region were sent to their missions, with the Syrians' blessing, from the Al-Matn region as well, since the Syrians fear an Israeli reaction on the eastern front, a reaction whose echoes may reverberate as far as Damascus.

Yesterday, at 1300 several mortar shells were fired from north of the Damascus-Beirut road toward the area under IDF control. In the afternoon, IDF soldiers noticed an attempt by a terrorist squad to cross the brook. Tanks and cannons fired a controlled [mevuqeret] quantity of shells in the direction of three houses in the Dayr Al-Harf village. After precisely 12 minutes, it was reported that the houses collapsed and then the firing stopped. [end recording]

SYRIAN ACTIVITY IN LEBANESE EASTERN SECTOR REPORTED

TA310712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] The Syrians have launched concentrated activities to rehabilitate their deployment in the Lebanese eastern sector upon the improvement in weather. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that from IDF observation posts, it is possible to see Syrian tanks and artillery which were moved to forward positions from positions in the rear. One frequently hears echoes of shooting exercises and increased soldiers' drills are seen. However, our correspondent has learned that the traffic in the area is characteristic for this season of snow melting and that one cannot spot any offensive tendencies in it.

RADIO REPORTS SOVIET COMMUNIQUE 30 MARCH

TA301607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The Soviet Government has warned Israel lest it attack Syria. In an official communique released this afternoon, the Soviet Government calls on Israel to stop playing with fire and to put an end to its preparations to attack Syria.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the announcement carried by Moscow radio stated that Israel was openly carrying out preparations to attack Syria and that Israeli leaders were competing among themselves in making declarations on this issue. The Soviet communique emphasizes that the Soviet Union continues to support a solution through peaceful means and negotiations among all parties with the aim of establishing a just and lasting peace. Our correspondent points out that a delegation of the Supreme Soviet visited Damascus last week.

'SOURCES' ON SOVIET WARNING, BEGIN-REAGAN MEETING

TA310534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] The Soviet Union is continuing to increase its involvement in Syria and various signs indicate that Damascus is enhancing the option that will enable it to open anti-Israeli hostilities in the spring months. This is the belief of political sources in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is following events in Syria and evaluates the warning the Soviet Union issued yesterday regarding Israel.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports on this and on the negotiations with Lebanon, upon the departure of Philip Habib for Washington:

[Begin Schiffer recording] Jerusalem is trying to keep its cool in view of the Soviet warning to Israel. Despite the various signs in the area, the major assessment here is that war between Israel and Syria will not break out in the coming period. The Soviets warn, as they put it, that Tel Aviv stop playing with fire, but have lately made efforts to strengthen the Syrians and the latter act as if they had already set a date for the opening of hostilities against Israel.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens raised this matter in the contacts he maintained with various U.S. personalities.

In the opinion of political observers, the Soviet warning is intended to signal to the United States that an arrangement in the region cannot be reached without the Soviet Union. The nearer the Israeli-Lebanese arrangement is, these observers added, the more interested the Soviets are in signaling that they are here, in the area. This gives rise to the assessment that the arrangement with Lebanon will necessitate tiring negotiations with Syria and still there is no certainty that the Syrians will ultimately leave Lebanon.

In any event, Habib is leaving for Washington this morning emptyhanded. Until I return to the region, you have more than a week to find with the Lebanese the compromise proposal regarding Major Sa'd Haddad and his forces, Habib told Ministers Shamir and Arens yesterday. It seems that this time too the compromise will not be found here and all will be waiting for U.S. ideas.

Last night, some political observers said it may be that only through a meeting between the U.S. President and the prime minister will it be possible to lead to a conclusion of the negotiations. These observers estimated that Israel has not yet reached the limit of its concessions regarding the security arrangements. If a way is found to guarantee that Maj Haddad's forces continue to constitute the hard core of the element responsible for security in southern Lebanon, and Haddad himself is given important duties in Lebanon, Israel will view this as a fair solution to the dispute which has not as yet allowed the conclusion of the negotiations.

In the meantime, the Israeli and Lebanese representatives will continue to talk in Qiryat Shemona this morning, but at the same time, the contacts with the United States will continue through different channels. The goal is to finally find an end to these long negotiations. [end recording]

JERUSALEM STAR REPORTS PLO'S QADDUMI'S REMARKS

JN310925 Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 31 Mar 83 p 1, 4

[By STAR staff writer Leila G. Deeb]

[Text] Amman -- The Palestine Liberation Organization insists on having a full role in the international efforts for peace, and also insists that Palestinian representation at these efforts not be abused says PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi. Mr Qaddumi told THE STAR, "we refuse to let some others represent the PLO."

"After the meeting of the Palestine National Council, we of the PLO believe that peace in the Middle East area cannot be achieved without the Palestinians receiving their full national rights to their state, their right to self-determination, and the return of the refugees to their lands."

Mr Qaddumi was speaking shortly before his departure after a two-day visit to Jordan. He had been expected to attend Palestinian-Jordanian talks which have been postponed indefinitely.

He told THE STAR that he was here to discuss bilateral relations and new developments in the Middle East, as well as to strengthen Arab solidarity in the face of new challenges.

The bases for any peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis are known to the world, he said. These are an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil, the recognition of the right of the people of Palestine to return to their homes from which they have been uprooted and the recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The framework of such a peace, he continued, is the United Nations.

Asked about the PLO position on UN Security Council Resolution 242, Mr. Qaddumi said that it was not accepted by the PLO. "The Palestine National Council (PNC) had rejected it as an adequate basis for a permanent solution. In our opinion, the Reagan initiative cannot be considered as a sound basis for any just political settlement in the Middle East," he said. A decision on this matter was taken at the last session of the PNC.

On the other hand, the Fes peace plan was adopted at the Arab summit as a sound basis for any possible solution.

Asked about his talks with Jordanian officials, Mr. Qaddumi said that they were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding of the responsibilities borne by both parties. "There is no doubt that we feel a great responsibility at this time and this necessitates complete co-ordination between us in order to reach a joint understanding on the matters which were discussed" he stated.

The Jordanian side highly appreciated these ideas, and "we, on our part, appreciate the great concern shown by our (Jordanian) brothers to regain the land and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

He added that there were no problems between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides. "The real problem is between us and the United States of America, which is trying by every means available to force us to give up part of our rights."

Asked whether the PLO may change its position regarding peace negotiations, Mr. Qaddumi said that it is the U.S. which should change its position. But he saw little change of this happening as the U.S. is still falling short of the minimum that the Palestinians will accept.

Regarding the visit of Chairman 'Arafat, Mr. Qaddumi said that he will be coming to Jordan to follow up on the discussions at the highest level.

He also confirmed that the seven-member Arab League committee emanating from the Fes summit will be meeting in Rabat on 3 April.

Mr. Qaddumi left for Damascus on Tuesday morning. He said he will probably be returning to join Mr. 'Arafat when he comes to Amman.

JIBRIL REPORTEDLY REFUSES VISITS TO PRISONERS

TA291708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Ahmad Jibril will not permit a visit to the two Israeli prisoners being held by his organization's general staff headquarters until Israel announces that it is holding 112 prisoners who are members of that organization. This was said by Chancellor Kreisky's envoy after having met with Jibril in Damascus.

More on Israeli Prisoners

TA310742 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0728 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] This morning YEDI'OT AHARONOT reports that the head of the Austrian chancellor's office, Herbert Amry, has received a sign of life from the two IDF soldiers being held captive by Jibril's organization or has even visited the pair. This was reported last night by reliable sources in Austria to the paper's correspondent in Vienna. Amry went to the Middle East on a special mission for the exchange of prisoners between Israel and Syria and the terrorist organizations. He has good relations in the area, dating from the time he was the Austrian ambassador to Beirut. The sources in Vienna reported that there had been an acceleration of the negotiations and they had entered into high speed.

Yesterday, Ahmad Jibril spoke with the International Red Cross representative in Damascus. Jibril repeated his demand [derishato] that Israel should admit it is holding about 112 prisoners from his organization and report their names as the main condition before any discussion about exchanges of prisoners. Jibril said similar things the day before yesterday, 29 March, to the Austrian envoy. As we said, this report is by the YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent in Vienna.

BEGIN ADVISER SAYS LAND DAY PASSES 'QUIETLY'

TA301729 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1720 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Jerusalem, 30 Mar (ITIM) -- One could safely say that Land Day passed this year relatively quietly compared to last year. Although some incidents occurred whose significance cannot be minimized -- such as stonethrowing, and some times and places where PLO flags were flown -- the public order was by and large disrupted by young boys and girls. This was stated today by the prime minister's Arab affairs adviser, Binyamin Gur-Arye.

He remarked that the political elements organizing the 30 March events decided not to bring about another test of power with the authorities, as they did on the day in which incidents were organized to protest the Sabra and Shatila events. Gur-Arye added that the severe warning issued by the authorities that no violations of the public order will be tolerated on the one hand, and on the other hand the massive preemptive measures employed by the security forces, allowed for swift and substantive treatment of each and every incident.

He also said that the frequent meetings held in the last couple of weeks between the heads of the Arab and Jewish public, and between Arab public figures and representatives of the government, contributed to the Arab local council heads' resolve to come out with a direct appeal to the public to maintain public order and not to violate the law. In this context, Gur-Arye emphasized that in many cases the heads of the local councils and their staff took action to maintain public order and to lower the PLO banners.

ALGERIA

AFP: POLISARIO GUERRILLAS CLASH WITH TROOPS

NC301150 Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Madrid, March 30 (AFP) -- Several people were killed in a recent clash between Algerian troops and guerrillas of the Polisario front Saharan nationalist movement returning to their south Algerian base with new equipment from Libya, the Spanish newspaper DIARIO 16 reported today.

DIARIO, quoting its report on Algerian sources, described the encounter as a sign of increasing tension between the Polisario guerrillas and the Algerian authorities, who apart from providing base facilities at Tindouf have supported the Sahrawi movement politically.

The new tension followed talks between Algeria and Morocco aimed at finding a solution to the problem of the former Spanish Sahara, where Polisario guerrillas are fighting Moroccan forces.

The newspaper said it had obtained confirmation of the encounter during this week's official visit to Morocco by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

The clash occurred as a Polisaro column drove back to Tindouf with heavy equipment and military vehicles they collected in Libya. Shooting broke out after the Algerians ordered the guerrillas to drive back to Libya, DIARIO reported.

MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON UNANNOUNCED VISIT

LD291130 Kuwait KUNA in English 1041 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Rabat, March 29 (KUNA) -- Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta is currently in Algeria on an unannounced visit to prepare for the convention of a summit conference for the Arab League committee of seven, reliable sources told KUNA Monday.

The summit was discussed during PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Morocco and Saudi Arabia, the sources said, adding that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal visited Amman Monday for the same purpose.

The seven-man committee groups Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Algeria, Tunisia, and the PLO.

Official Moroccan sources did not deny the foreign minister's stay in Algiers which could possibly include talks on the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two neighboring North African states.

The Moroccan moves are coupled with Palestinian initiatives to speed up the covening of the committee at the ministerial level in preparation for the summit.

BENDJEDID MESSAGE SUPPORTS FRONTLINE STATES

LD261506 Algiers APS in English 1336 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 26-3-82 (APS) -- President Chadli Bendjedid sent a message to the international conference of solidarity with front line countries in which he praised this initiative which comes at a time when the apartheid regime strives violence against sovereign and independent states of South Africa and combatants for freedom.

This racialist, colonialist, and expansionist regime, the message added, must be strongly condemned and its acts, opposing basic standards of international law and morale, be firmly denounced.

President Chadli finally reiterated, in the message, Algeria's firm support for front line countries and for Namibia and South Africa, through SWAPO and ANC, wishing all success to the works of the conference.

STATEMENT WITH BURUNDI SUPPORTS FREEDOM STRUGGLES

LD261456 Algiers APS in English 1320 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 23/3/83 (APS) -- Algeria and Burundi reaffirmed their militant solidarity with liberation movements in Africa, Asia, Latin America and all the fair causes in the world.

They condemned in a joint statement released Thursday the criminal expansionist Zionist policy and massacres against Palestinian and Lebanese people.

FLN party and UPRONA (Burundi Union for National Progress) reiterated their indefectible support for PLO and the Palestinian people's right to an independent state.

The statement released at the end of UPRONA delegation here welcomed resolutions of the Palestinian National Council reinforcing unity and independence of action as well as Palestinian resistance within the occupied territories.

Algeria and Burundi parties reasserted their strong attachment to the principles of non-alignment and expressed their faith in the movement's capacity to concretise aspirations of oppressed peoples to peace, freedom, independence, and justice thus paving the way to the setting up of an international economic order. They hailed positive results of New Delhi summit and its resolutions to safeguard peace and fruitful cooperation among non-aligned nations.

The two delegations expressed satisfaction for the results of Prime Minister Abdelghani's recent visit to Burundi that will consolidate bilateral cooperation.

The Burundi delegation led by Nzinahora Pasteur, vice chairman of the Political Administrative Commission of UPRONA party, has signed also a protocol agreement for the year 1983-1984 between the two parties.

FLN SIGNS COMMUNIQUE WITH SAO TOME-PRINCIPE

LD271534 Algiers APS in English 1434 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 27/3/83 (APS) -- A joint communique between the FLN party and the Liberation Movement of Sao Tome and Principe [MLSTP] was released at the end of the FLN delegation's visit in Sao Tome and Principe.

The communique evokes talks held by the two parties mainly concerning peoples' struggle for peace, national independence, social progress, and socialism. Both delegations denounced the apartheid regime which is raging in South Africa and reiterated their support to peoples of Namibia, Mozambique, Angola, and South Africa.

As for Western Sahara, they renewed their support to the Saharawi people and the Polisario front. The FLN and MLSTP parties asserted that in conformity with the OAU decisions, the nonaligned recommendations, and the UN resolutions, the direct negotiation between SDAR and Morocco is the only way to establish a fair and lasting peace in Western Sahara.

They also reiterated their support for the Palestinian people and its legitimate representative PLO and condemned imperialist manoeuvres and aggression aimed at dividing Lebanon.

As concerns cooperation, the two sides praised the important progress achieved in the development of bilateral cooperation and reaffirmed their will to develop and improve it in both peoples interest.

In this frame, the communique underlined, a protocol of cooperation was signed between the FLN and MLSTP parties for the years 1983 and 1984.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI MEETS WITH OFFICERS IN TOBRUK

NC301024 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Al-Qadhdhafi] met with officers of the Arab Libyan Armed Forces in Tobruk and exchanged good wishes with them on the 13th anniversary of the ousting of the British colonialist forces, which marks a great historic action and a splendid national victory scored by the will of the free people through the Great 1 September Revolution and its leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

During the meeting, which was attended by Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the leader spoke to the officers about several important questions in the Arab and the international arenas and the effective revolutionary resistance by the Great 1 September Revolution against the savage imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

He also spoke about the revolutionary march which set out from the struggle trench in the Jamahiriyah to confront all plots and terrorist provocations. He affirmed that the Libyan Arab people, who possess the authority, resources, and arms, are the master people and a free people who cannot be coerced or defeated.

In their meeting with the leader, the officers affirmed their adherence to the revolutionary principles and ideas laid down by revolutionary thinker Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and their heroic adherence to the authority of the people who have the sole authority. They affirmed their readiness to carry out the order of death in defending every grain of sand in the Libyan Arab territory -- the staunch revolutionary territory of all free men and strugglers for freedom and emancipation. They also affirmed their readiness to offer their lives to resist the Zionist death wagon and to repel all aggressors and plotters against the Arab nation.

The brother leader attended a reception given by the officers in Tobruk to mark the 13th anniversary of ousting the colonialist bases. This historical event carries deep significance in affirming the courageous vanguard role undertaken by the brother leader of the revolution to consolidate the Libyan Arab people's freedom and to constantly urge the masses' action in rejecting slavery, domination, coercion, defeat, and surrender.

FOREIGN LIAISON BUREAU CONDEMNS U.S. ON GRENADA

LD260934 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Mar (JANA) -- The People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau has condemned the terrorist provocations and interferences carried out by Reagan's administration against the people and the revolution of Grenada. It stresses that the Libyan Arab peoples stand with and support the people of Grenada and all friendly people in Latin America.

The People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau has issued a statement regarding the terrorist provocations against the people of Grenada which says:

The foreign minister of Grenada summoned the heads of the political missions accredited to his country, including the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau in Grenada, and informed them of the aggressive American threats against his country that began in December 1982 when Reagan's vice president launched an attack against Grenada during a press conference in Miami, which was followed by a speech by the U.S. President on 10 March in which he claimed that Grenada constituted a threat to the security and safety of his country.

The foreign minister of Grenada went on to say that the United States intended to take military action against his country, especially after recent developments in Nicaragua and the naval exercises that took place in [words indistinct].

The People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, informing the General People's Congress of these blatant American threats against the defenseless people of Grenada who refuse to submit to American domination, expresses its profound anxiety regarding these American threats and strongly condemns and denounces the aggressive course that has become the clear distinctive mark of the reactionary American Administration, which basically is built on aggression against every people that rejects American pomposity, arrogance, and hegemony.

The People's Foreign Liaison Bureau recalls the continuing aggressions and provocations carried out and being carried out by American imperialism against the Libyan Arab people, which included the attack against Libyan aircraft in our territorial waters in the Gulf of Sidra during August 1981, the violation of our territorial waters and airspace in February 1983, imposing an economic blockade against the Jamahiriyah, and the U.S. President's personal applications of racial discrimination against the Libyan Arab students studying in the United States, preventing them from continuing their studies there without any justification, attempting to sow sedition in the Arab region by inciting the brothers to fight among themselves, and other similar hostile actions.

Added to this are the American imperialist reactionary acts against the people of Nicaragua and its revolutionary leadership, its continuous encouragement of mercenaries, arming and training them to commit aggression against Nicaragua, and also its recent muscle-flexing provocations in the "Team Spirit" exercises close to the borders of North Korea.

All the hostile American actions deserve strong condemnation by the international community and the marshalling of the efforts of all progressive forces in the world to deter American arrogance.

APPOINTMENT OF U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CHAD ATTACKED

NC311224 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] An official U.S. statement says that U.S. President Reagan yesterday appointed Jay P. Moffat as U.S. ambassador in Ndjamena. Moffat has been helping Hissein Habre and his clique since January 1982 to kill the Chadians who reject Habre. The appointment of Moffat as U.S. ambassador in Ndjamena comes within the framework of plans engineered by the Reagan administration to strangle the Chadian people and shake security and stability in the area. At the same time, this reveals the Reagan administration's aggressive intentions to fan the hysteria of provocation against the Libyan Arab people.

SOVIET GROUPS GREET AL-QADHDHAFI ON ANNIVERSARY

LD281136 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Mar (JANA) -- The Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, the Society for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Arab Countries, and the USSR-Libya Friendship Society have sent congratulations to the brother leader of the revolution on the anniversary of the removal of British bases from Libyan Arab soil.

In their cables, the Soviet societies denounce the aggressive provocations of American imperialism against the people of the Jamahiriyah, and affirmed their full solidarity with the Arab Libyan people in their struggle against these aggressive designs. They also emphasized their intention to continue working for the development of cooperation between the Jamahiriyah's people and the Soviet people.

The Soviet friendship societies also expressed their concern over the dangerous situation in the Arab arena due to the aggressive, expansionist Zionist intentions supported by American imperialism, and demanded the withdrawal of the Zionist forces and the achievement of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

MOROCCO

FURTHER REMARKS BY SPAIN'S GONZALEZ TO PRESS

PA300410 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0132 GMT 30 Mar 83

[By Francisco Diaz Gonzalez]

[Text] Rabat, 29 Mar (EFE) -- Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez expressed in Rabat today his country's desire "to be a factor of peace in Central America and all the South American Continent."

At a news conference at the end of his official 2-day visit to Morocco, the prime minister said that Spain seeks to "generate domestic and foreign coexistence in that continent with the utmost respect for the countries' right to free determination."

He stressed that even though Latin America is homogeneous, it has completely different problems.

He referred to Brazil as a country on the way to democracy. Regarding Argentina, he said that "despite having a regime different from that of other countries," it received support on the Malvinas. Referring to Central America, he said it has "deep roots, with structures that are not adequate to a coexistence in peace and freedom."

Felipe Gonzalez said that "Spain, despite the geographic distance, has reason to feel close to the reality of Latin America, with whom it shares culture, language, and other positive and negative factors."

The Spanish prime minister today ended his first trip abroad by meeting with Moroccan King Hassan II in the city of Fes, 200 km east of Rabat.

Felipe Gonzalez said that the objective of the eminently political trip has been fulfilled. That objective was to analyze Spanish-Moroccan relations in order "to lay the groundwork for future cooperation."

He said that Moroccan aspirations to the Spanish cities of Ceuta and Melilla were not brought up in the talks, and he expressed happiness that despite the existence of logical differences over various aspects, they have not been "an obstacle to our understanding and communication."

The Spanish prime minister said that his government is available to help solve the conflict over Western Sahara, a Spanish territory until 1975, and that Spain maintains its policy of "noninterference."

He emphasized that the problem is being correctly channeled and expressed his hope that it "will have a good solution respecting the interests of all parties."

He expressed support for an overall policy in relations with the countries of the Maghreb, a region of northern Africa towards which Spain wants to give preferential attention.

He did not hide his satisfaction over the rapprochement between Morocco and Algeria, because he said this will contribute to detente in the Mediterranean, "where there is currently the highest percentage of armament per cubic meter of water."

Regarding the Middle East situation, and more specifically the resolution of the Fes Arab "summit," he said that it was of great importance since the decision was made by all the Arab world. He said that the Spaniards "have defended, more than any Western country, the need to recognize the PLO as a participant in all negotiations."

Felipe Gonzalez did not forget the war between Iran and Iraq. He said: I follow the war with concern. I hope that the path to peace will open. We completely support that peace, even though we do not have a very active role in the region.

Felipe Gonzalez also referred to the international economic crisis, "which is not the crisis of capitalist countries or countries with a state-controlled economy. Instead, it is the crisis of all the world." According to the Spanish prime minister, the solidarity of countries through the transfer of technology is one of the ways to overcome the crisis.

SUDAN

VICE PRESIDENT ON DISRUPTIVE EFFECT OF RUMORS

JN301921 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Rumbek, Southern Region, 30 Mar (SUNA) -- Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president and chairman of the presidential plebiscite committee, has warned of the dangers that are threatening Sudan which is on the verge of exploiting its oil resources. He said that some are trying to disrupt security and stability by propagating rumors. The first vice president urged the Rumbek citizens to expose those who seek to disrupt security and to join those who produce and work for Sudan's progress and prosperity.

The first vice president said this at a popular gathering in Rumbek yesterday morning. Engineer Joseph Tombura, chairman of the Higher Executive Council for the southern region, also spoke at the popular gathering. He stressed that the country is enjoying a state of security and stability under President Numayri's leadership. The first vice president is currently on a 3-day visit to the southern region.

TUNISIA

REPORT RATIFIES WORK OF JOINT LIBYAN COMMISSION

LD260706 Tunis TAP in English 1430 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, March 25 (TAP) -- The Tunisio-Libyan joint commission on labour force, professional training and social security met from March 21st to 24 in Tunis. A report ratifying the commission work was signed on the Tunisian part by Mr. Mohamed Naceur, minister for social affairs, and on the Libyan part by Mr. Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Mabruk, secretary to the public offices. The report notably pertains to the fields of employment, social security, professional training, and family production.

As regards employment, the two parties asserted their will to go on applying the priority principle to the Tunisian citizens' work in the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah and agreed to exchange news pertaining to employment needs and to the possibilities afforded in human resources before June 1983. The periodicity of this exchange will be every six months in the future.

It was also agreed that the Libyan part will take the necessary measures to regularize the situation of the Tunisian manpower recruited to work in Libya and enable them thus to complete the condition of their sojourn and transfer their assets in the best conditions as soon as possible.

In the social security field, the two parts agreed that the Libyan part transfer within the required time to the National Social Security Fund (C.N.S.S.) the assets of the Tunisians who have worked in the Jamahiriyah, coming from their contribution to the social security regime or following the industrial accidents; as well as to other acquired rights. [sentence as received]

The two parts also agreed to exchange news on the application of the bilateral conventions and all other laws in force as well as the eventual transformations which are likely to affect them and pertaining to the social security laws in the two countries.

Within this framework, the periodical meetings will be held twice a year to examine and overcome the difficulties likely to impede the application of the convention.

As regards professional training, the participation of the training institute and the promotion of the cadres of Rades (Tunisia) to the promotion of Libyan trainers in various specialities and according to the Tunisian possibilities [phrasing as received] was approved by the two parties which showed their disposal to examine the possibility of twinning the Rades institute with the Mousrata cadres training institute.

The Tunisian part finally approved within their means the Libyan request pertaining to the recruiting of Tunisian specialists and trainers appealed to work in Libya to contribute to [word indistinct] to be Arabised.

Finally, as regards the Tunisian experience in matters of family production, the two parties discussed the training programmes of the "productive family" and the possibility of making the Libya party get advantage of the Tunisian experience in this field.

DJIBOUTI

KUWAITI DAILY INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED

GF261452 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 25 Mar 83 p 18

[Interview with Djibouti President Hassan Gouled by AL-QABAS correspondent Bassam Madhbuh in Presidential Palace in Djibouti -- date not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] After independence you maintained distinctive relations with France. How do you explain this policy of yours?

[Answer] Our relations with France are distinctive. That is true. There is a marriage contract between Djibouti and France, but an Islamic not a Catholic one; that is, each party can divorce at anytime it wants. Some people criticize the presence of 4,000 French soldiers on Djibouti territory. We say that once not a single foreigner remains in the region, whether from East or West, then at that time we too can do without the French.

The French are present in accordance with a defense agreement between us. Djibouti is not a base for the French to move from to the outside or to intervene in the internal affairs of other countries. This is as clear as the sun itself. They are here to defend Djibouti when we request them to do so and only when we ourselves are unable to perform this task. Thus, we don't see that the French presence on our land constitutes any violation of our national sovereignty.

[Question] You adopted a policy of neutrality on the Somali-Ethiopian conflict. Within the same framework, what is the nature of your relations with your neighbors?

[Answer] To start with I wish to say that we don't only have two neighbors; we have four. In addition to Somalia and Ethiopia, there are North Yemen and South Yemen, with whom we are only separated by the Bab el Mandeb.

Our policy with regard to the region's problems is neutrality. Djibouti is linked with these neighbors by good-neighborly relations.

As for the Somali-Ethiopian conflict, I don't call what has happened a war but a war play, because a real war would continue until one party scores victory against the other. Why has this conflict taken place? And why did it take place on the eve of Djibouti's independence? In my opinion there is more to the issue than merely Somalia and Ethiopia.

We have tried from our side to reconcile the two countries, but so far we have not been successful in our efforts. However, our repetitive initiatives created some sort of confidence between us and the two parties. We do benefit from this atmosphere of confidence because it enables us to make new efforts that will, hopefully, lead in the end to tangible results.

[Question] As a result of this conflict, Djibouti received about 40,000 refugees, most of them from the Ogaden District. Lately, Djibouti has expressed the desire to have all these refugees returned to their homes. What are the causes of this about-face, if you don't mind the expression?

[Answer] Many people misunderstood the refugee question. The main problem in this issue stems from the UN resolutions which were drawn up by the Eastern and Western blocs without taking into consideration the special situations of the countries of the Third World. Now, we implement the Geneva agreements.

These agreements have their positive and negative aspects. The positive ones concern aiding those in need during the circumstances of a military conflict. What about when the war is over? The Geneva agreements are not clear on this matter. All they offer are circles within the framework of the so-called optional return.

These people sought refuge in Djibouti, running away from war. The regions they fled are now secure. So why don't they go back to their regions? Simply, because they benefit here from material gains which they fear to lose once they go home. Imagine, for instance, that a large number of these refugees trade with the food-stuffs they obtain free of charge. More than this is the fact that they sell them in the regions they orginally fled from. I saw this for myself when I went to Ethiopia on an official trip. This is a fact that is known to all people.

In the difficult circumstances that Djibouti is living through, it just cannot take 40,000 refugees. We offered all we could when the war situation demanded so; but now that the artillery is silent we find no justification for continuing this situation. Djibouti cannot bear this large number, which is almost 15 per cent of the population. Who can give us firm guarantees as to the stability of our internal situation?

Anyway, we shall never think of expelling the refugees. All we seek -- with the cooperation of the Ethiopians and the high commissioner for refugees -- is to achieve a solution to the problem so that each human will go back to his land and home to live there in security and stability.

[Question] The last question, Your Excellency Mr President, the Arab world is living in a state of disunity and fragmentation and so is Africa. There are those who call themselves "moderate" countries and those who call themselves "progressive" countries. Where do you in Djibouti fit in as far as these labels are concerned?

[Answer] Our policy here in Djibouti is the policy of a state that carries the banner of peace and accord. As for the labels you have just spoken about, perhaps we consider ourselves closer to the moderates by virtue of the fact that we pursue a political course that is far from extremism.

ETHIOPIA

VLASOV-LED CPSU DELEGATION DEPARTS 25 MARCH

EA261831 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Comrade Aleksandr Vlasov, CPSU Central Committee member and first secretary of the Checheno-Ingush Autonomous Republic party committee, left for home this morning after a 10-day working visit to socialist Ethiopia.

Comrade Vlasov, who was leading a Soviet delegation, said before leaving that his stay in Ethiopia enabled him to witness the broad masses actively participating in the struggle to bring victory to the revolution, particularly now when work is in progress to implement the resolutions of the Second Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] Congress. Comrade Vlasov, the leader of the delegation, said in his statement that his talks with the comrades of the COPWE Central Committee were useful, contributed toward strengthening relations, and facilitated the exchange of many struggle experiences, particularly those following the signing of the friendship and cooperation agreement between the CPSU and COPWE. The exchange of experiences between the two organizations will strengthen relations and broaden cooperation between the two bodies.

MENGISTU OPENS COPWE PLENARY MEETING 25 MARCH

EA260945 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam has stressed that special efforts must be made to create favorable conditions to accomplish the formation of the Ethiopian workers party and the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the revolution and in the future to enable the party to achieve better results.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] Central Committee chairman and commander in chief of the revolutionary Army, said this in a speech this morning opening the 1-day sixth plenary meeting of the COPWE Central Committee, being held to create favorable conditions for the implementation of the resolutions of the Second COPWE Congress at the Central Committee hall.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu pointed out that from the day the Second COPWE Congress resolutions were passed, intensive study has been carried out among the various Executive Committee and Central Committee departments, which will be discussed and passed by this meeting. Three parts of the study that are considered suitable for immediate implementation have been prepared. They are the planned approach to the formation of the party and its implementation, work directives for and organizational structures of the party about to be formed and the 10th anniversary celebration of the revolution.

He also noted even though the organization will be directed by COPWE, its activities will need the full efforts of the members of COPWE, the organs of COPWE, and the mass of the revolution.

The formation of the party is an issue of the first priority, but the measure of its success is the improvement of the standard of living of the working class which is the basis of the formation of the party. Hence, he said, great results are expected from within COPWE as a whole or from any other revolutionary participating in any other economic, social, administration, or political field.

In his speech Comrade Chairman Mengistu pointed out that the proclamation by the PMAC on the formation of the institute for the study of Ethiopian nationalities is a visible sign of our starting to implement the second COPWE resolutions and noted that other major activities will follow. He noted that with the resolutions of the congress having received full support and acceptance by the working people, the Central Committee has a heavy responsibility in drawing up and directing the plans so as to achieve the necessary results.

In his concluding speech Comrade Chairman Mengistu noted that the main principle that should be reflected in the approaching formation of the party should be action and affirmed his confidence in the full support of the parties and socialist forces which are our international allies in the combined efforts of the workers.

BONN EMBASSY DENIES REPORTS ON RELIEF DIVERSION

LD282257 Hamburg DPA in German 1540 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Bonn, 28 Mar (DPA) -- The Ethiopian Embassy in Bonn today denied press reports alleging that much of the European relief for the victims of the famine in northern Ethiopia is being diverted to the Soviet Union in payment for arms deliveries ot the Ethiopian military regime.

The Ethiopian Embassy release says that the Ethiopian relief organizations, with international support, were making great efforts to avoid the worst. Some DM18 million was needed for transport alone. The Ethiopian authorities had invited international organizations, the press, and diplomats accredited in Addis Ababa to see for themselves the extent of the drought and the efforts made to overcome the disaster.

ERITREANS REJECT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS

GF291356 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1154 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Doha, 29 Mar (WAKH) -- Mohamed Osman (Abu Bakr), representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces [ELF-PLF] in the Gulf region, has affirmed that the Eritrean people reject the solutions proposed by Ethiopia to grant Eritrea administrative rule only, and asserted the Eritrean people's determination to struggle to liberate their land.

In a statement to QNA, (Abu Bakr) said the Eritrean revolution is holding over 1,000 Ethiopian soldiers as prisoners of war, 200 of whom were taken prisoner during the latest military campaign Ethiopia launched against Eritrea in February to liquidate the Eritrean cause and impose a military solution on it.

The ELF-PLF official revealed that there is mounting opposition in the Ethiopian Army because of the Ethiopian war against Eritrea. He said more than 1,000 Ethiopian soldiers fled to Sudan and Somalia during the past 2 months in protest against this war, noting that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] in Sudan and Somalia considers these people as refugees and has provided for their care in camps set up for this purpose.

(Abu Bakr) added that a wide-scale campaign of arrests is being carried out by Ethiopia in the Eritrean cities where more than 200 citizens have been arrested on charges of collaborating with the revolutionaries, including 14 Ethiopian naval officers of Eritrean extraction.

The Eritrean official arrived in Doha yesterday, Monday, on a 2-day visit to Qatar to brief officials on the developments of the situation in the Eritrean arena.

TANZANIA

COUP PLOT TRIAL ADJOURNED UNTIL 8 APRIL

EA260057 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam -- The 29 persons accused of conspiring to overthrow the government in violation of the law between December and January this year, were again brought before the resident magistrate, Ndugu (Israel Magesa), at the Kisutu court in Dar es Salaam today. The case was, however, again adjourned until 8 April, when the case will be mentioned for the sixth time.

Speaking for the prosecution, police senior superintendent, Ndugu (?Tatu Omari), told the court that it was necessary for the case to be adjourned because investigations were still incomplete. He was replying to a question put by advocate (Hussein Kukadam), who is defending the 17th accused, Christopher Pastor Ngaiza, and wanted the prosecution to state exactly how far the investigations had proceeded.

The 29 accused are alleged to have conspired between December and 7 January this year to bring about the death of the president of the United Republic of Tanzania, to divest him from responsibilities and to overthrow the government.

The accused, who have been remanded, comprise 20 soldiers of the Tanzania peoples forces and nine civilians.

UGANDA

MUWAMGA SAYS REBELS SURROUNDED IN LUWERO

AB271003 Paris AFP in English 0952 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Kampala, March 27 (AFP) -- Uganda's Vice President and Defence Minister Paulo Muwamga has said that he expects his troops to wipe out anti-government rebels from the troubled Luwero District north of Kampala "within the next few days."

Uganda radio said today that Mr Muwanga told Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Kampala Joseph Mukwaya yesterday that the "bandits" were surrounded in Bulemezi County in Luwero District, where the rebels opposed to the government of President Milton Obote have been most active.

Yesterday's announcement by Mr Muwanga followed a statement last December that the rebels would be wiped out of Luwero District in "a few months", and a subsequent one last month that they would be eliminated within "a few weeks."

Uganda radio said Mr Muwanga made his remarks yesterday at a luncheon he gave for Bishop Mukwaya, who was appointed late last year.

ANGOLA

CSSR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 30 MARCH

AB301625 Paris AFP in English 1607 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Luanda, March 30 (AFP) -- Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Stanoslav Svoboda arrived here today with a message for Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos believed to concern the Czechoslovak prisoners held by anti-government UNITA guerrillas.

Mr. Svoboda, who brought a message from Czechoslovak head of state Gustav Husak, is to meet with ranking Foreign Ministry officials and leaders of the ruling MPLA party.

Sixty-six Czechoslovak nationals were captured by the [National] Union for the Total Independence of Angola on March 12 in southern Angola.

UNITA TO RELEASE PORTUGUESE NUN, CHILDREN

AB301508 Paris AFP in French 1427 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Lisbon, 30 Mar (AFP) -- The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) -- the armed opposition movement -- is prepared to release unconditionally through the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC) an Angolan nun and four children of a Portuguese technical assistance official, a communique issued by the movement indicated in Lisbon on Wednesday.

In the communique which has reached AFP's bureau, Jonas Savimbi's movement announced the arrival at its central bases of Three Portuguese and a Cuban captured in Benguela and Huambo Provinces during the first 2 months of 1983.

According to the communique, the Portuguese technical assistance officials will wait at the UNITA base for the arrival of the group of Czechoslovak and Portuguese nationals captured on 12 March at Alto Da Catumbela (in Benguela Province in the west-central part of the country). The Portuguese Government must contact the ICRC for their possible release, added the communique.

UNITA does not envisage the release of Cuban Lieutenant Adolfo Estevez and did not mention the possible release of the 66 Czechoslovak technical assistance personnel captured on 12 March.

LESOTHO

FOREIGN MINISTER REACTS TO S. AFRICAN RESPONSE

MB300947 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The Lesotho minister of foreign affairs, in a telex message to South Africa, has registered his disappointment at the cavalier manner in which South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs and Information has dismissed Lesotho on Saturday and Sunday last week. In its telex message, South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs and Information had said the South African Government was not connected with the incidents at Ongeluksnek and Hendrick's Drift.

The minister says that the reply by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs and Information had not addressed itself to the serious situation affecting the security interests of both governments.

In his telex message, the minister wishes to draw the department's attention to the fact that the Ongeluksnek attack by insurgents from across South Africa is a reality which was witnessed by the Lesotho patrols, who (?were) attacked from 1000 hrs to about 1600 hrs last Saturday. The minister says that in a similar manner the Hendrick's Drift armed incursion into Lesotho on Sunday emanated from the Republic of South Africa.

The minister wishes to remind the South African Department of Foreign Affairs that it is the policy of both governments to ensure that their respective territories are not and shall not be used as springboards for attacks against each other. The minister says it has now come to his notice that whenever the Lesotho Government, in the interests of peace, has protested to the Republic of South Africa about South African territory being used as a springboard for attacks against Lesotho, the department adopts a stereotyped response about South Africa not being responsible for the dissident Lesotho elements. The minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Lesotho wishes to further remind the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa that the attack at Ongeluksnek took place on the official border between South Africa and Lesotho, and that the [words indistinct] of this border has not been changed by either side, with the two countries continuing to maintain a customs regime in the area. The same applies to the Hendrick's Drift incident, where the Lesotho patrols witnessed an attack after the armed bandits had crossed a river into Lesotho from the Republic of South Africa.

The Lesotho minister of foreign affairs says that, in the interest of peaceful and neighborly relations, he would have expected the South African response to be suggested on [as heard] an inspection in Loco in order to establish the veracity of facts. In conclusion, the minister requests the South African Department of Foreign Affairs and Information to agree to the expeditious joint inspection of the area of the battle at Ongeluksnek as well as the area of the encounter at Hendrick's Drift.

SOUTH AFRICA

TRANSKEI INVOLVEMENT IN LESOTHO ATTACK DENIED

MB301130 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 30 Mar 83 p 3

[By Patrick Laurence, political editor]

[Excerpt] Speculation that the Transkei was involved in the weekend attack on Lesotho police barracks near the Ongeluksnek border post was rejected yesterday by Colonel Z. Mtirara of the Transkei Defence Force. Lesotho initially claimed the attack had been led by a "Major McKenzi", who it described as a white South African. Pretoria has denied the attack was launched from South African territory.

Three factors fuelled speculation yesterday that the attack on the police barracks near Ongeluksnek might have involved the Transkei.

-- The Lesotho foreign minister, Mr Evaristus Sekhonyana, told a South African newspaper: "More and more attacks will come from Bantustans." His statement inferred that the weekend attack might have come from South Africa's nominally independent black territories.

-- Transkei shares a border with Lesotho and Transkei territory is close to the border post at Ongeluksnek.

-- A Major McKenzie, believed to be a former Rhodesian, serves in the Transkei Defence Force, which is commanded by Major-General Ron Reid-Daly, one-time commander of the Rhodesian Selous Scouts.

Col Mtirara confirmed yesterday that there was a Major Mckenzie in the Transkei Defense Force.

He added: "Major McKenzie was inside the Transkei at the weekend. If he was going outside he would have let me know as second-in-command of the Transkei Defence Force.

Neither Gen Reid-Daly, who is away on leave, nor the Transkei prime minister and minister of defence, Chief George Matanzima, could be contacted for comment yesterday.

PARTIES NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR BYELECTIONS

MB280958 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0900 28 Mar 83

[Text] Three parties have nominated candidates for the Waterberg parliamentary byelection. When the nomination court opened at 1000 the nominations of Mr Eben Cuyler of the National Party [NP], Dr Andries Treurnicht of the Conservative Party [CP] and Mr Jaap Marais of the Herstigte Nasionale Party [HNP] were handed in to the electoral officer. Interest was intense, and about 100 people turned up at the nomination court.

In the nomination court at Louis Trichardt, only two candidates were nominated for the Soutpansberg parliamentary byelection. They were the minister of manpower, Mr Fanie Botha of the NP, and Mr Thomas Langley of the CP. Our correspondent reports that a large number of supporters for both parties were present.

In Pretoria about 30 people were present for the nomination of four candidates in the Waterloof contest. The parties are the NP, the Progressive Federal Party, the CP, the New Republic Party [NRP] and the HNP.

Four candidates were nominated in the court at (Oberholser) for the Carletonville provincial byelection. The parties represented in the contest are the NP, the CP, the NCP, and the HNP. About 200 people were present.

At Malmesbury the nomination court received only the name of an NP candidate for the provincial byelection. She is Mrs (Hannet jie de Swart).

ZAMBIA

CIVIL SERVANTS UNION DEMANDS PAY INCREASE

MB300834 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The Civil Servant's Union of Zambia has demanded immediate salary increases, which should be negotiated at a roundtable with the government without delay. Addressing an extraordinary Civil Servant's Union of Zambia meeting held at Victoria Falls, National Chairman Mr (Gerry Jelakhe) said the Civil Servant's Union will never agree to any other negotiations apart for salary increase for its members.

Mr (Jelakhe) said the union will not accept a commission of enquiry because it is (?as stated) costly, and served no purpose at all, especially in an institution where there is already a trade union which represents the workers' interests.

PRESIDENT KAUNDA COMMENTS ON REGIONAL ISSUES

LD252002 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1736 GMT 25 Mar 83

[By Tom McMillan, PA diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] A volcano could explode in South Africa "in the next three or four years", that would make the French Revolution look like a Sunday school picnic, President Kaunda of Zambia said in London today. He was speaking at a press conference at the end of his state visit to Britain. He asked Western nations to realise that because of growing resentment against the policies of apartheid, time was no longer on their side.

President Kaunda had no doubt that any British Government abhorred apartheid. But South Africa was strongly supported by vested interests of the West. "I would like to warn brothers and sisters investing in South Africa that what they are doing is supporting apartheid financially and economically, and strengthening it politically. Unless there is a change of mind there can only be one way of resolving this problem - that is by violence - the violent overthrow of that regime."

President Kaunda added: "At present I do not see the problem of South Africa going beyond three or four years without an explosion, unless you take serious steps to change the investment pattern." He pointed to the support that the International Monetary Fund was willing to give South Africa to help its economy. He said: "Is that a coincidence or is it a plan? If there is a plan in Western capitals to support South Africa at all costs through the IMF, I am saying brothers and sisters of the West -- you are sitting on a volcano that is going to explode whether you or I like it or not."

President Kaunda said hundreds of thousands of lives could be lost. "If we should allow the problem to explode in our faces it will make the French Revolution look like a Sunday morning picnic. I am saying to the West -- time is not with us. "I do not see it going beyond three or four years from now without a major explosion. When the explosion takes place it will be along colour lines. It will be a disaster -- a tragedy."

The West seemed to feel that investment in independent African countries was not safe -- that the strategic materials needed by the West were to be found in South Africa. Yet Angola was ready to allow American companies to exploit its oil reserves, Zambia wanted to sell its copper to the West, Zimbabwe wanted to sell its chrome, and Mozambique as well as Zambia wanted Western investment. A black ruler in Namibia, if it became independent would want Western dollars and pounds to develop his country.

President Kaunda made clear he had no intention of intervening in the problems of Zimbabwe, which had caused opposition leader Joshua Nkomo to flee to London. Nor had he any plans to meet Mr Nkomo, an old political friend. Asked if he could do anything to help he said: "The only person who can help Mr Nkomo is Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and Mr Nkomo himself." He would only step in if asked by Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo.

President Kaunda today lunched with British bankers and businessmen as part of his efforts to encourage more investment in Zambia. He said that if Zambia could not pay its debts at present, it was not out of malice. With the help of the IMF the Zambian economy was being restructured. What he wanted from the West was an easing of trade restrictions. Liberalisation of trade would be a good outcome from the world economic summit in Williamsburg in the United States later this year.

ZIMBABWE

CATHOLIC BISHOPS CHARGE 'REIGN OF TERROR'

AB291233 Paris AFP in English 1207 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Harare, March 29 (AFP) -- The Roman Catholic Church charged today that the Army had imposed a "reign of terror" in southwestern Zimbabwe, killing many hundreds of innocent civilians, and accused the government and local mass media of trying to cover up the atrocities. The Church used an Easter pastoral letter from its seven bishops in Zimbabwe to issue the hardest-hitting public condemnation yet of the Army's operations for the past two months in the southwestern province of matabeleland. It called for an independent commission of inquiry. Independent accounts from clergymen, doctors, aid organizations, and local residents gathered by foreign journalists have suggested upwards of 1,000 civilians have been killed in the Army's drive against anti-government dissidents and their supporters.

The government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, while conceding that civilians inevitably suffer in such operations, has denied as "fabrications" foreign press reports of massive brutality. The government has expelled one foreign correspondent and barred another based in South Africa from returning because of their publications' coverage of Matabeleland.

The Catholic bishops acknowledged that the dissidents, mostly former guerrillas of fugitive opposition leader Joshua Nkomo, had "maltreated and killed a considerable number of persons who do not immediately support them in their cause". Estimates of killings by the dissidents over the past year are in the 100-200 range, at least 30-40 of them from the economically important white farming sector. But the bishops, four of them black and three white, said that the Army's methods of dealing with the problem had "degenerated into brutality and atrocity...violent reaction against dissident activity has, to our certain knowledge, brought about the maiming and death of hundreds and hundreds of innocent people who are neither dissidents nor collaborators". More suffering has been caused by the deliberate cut-off of food supplies to many areas of Matabeleland, where crops have failed this year because of severe drought, the pastoral letter said. The Roman Catholic bishops further asserted that "quite a number of public utterances made by not a few public figures seek to hide the atrocities that have taken place", a clear reference to statements by government ministers.

Mr Mugabe himself, while not denying the atrocity charges, reacted angrily when they were raised by journalists and challenged those making such charges to bring forward proof. The bishops said they had sent detailed evidence to government, as have nine international aid organizations operating in the country. On Saturday, Mr Mugabe told a rally in Harare that the Army's Fifth Brigade -- a North Korean-trained unit blamed for most of the bruatlity in Matabeleland -- had done a "very fine job".

The pastoral letter said the methods used by a "certain group of the Army" -- the fifth, almost all of whose soldiers are from Mr Mugabe's majority Shona tribe -- would "breed bitterness, feelings of hatred and desire for revenge" among the minority Ndebele people of the affected region. This could lead to more violence in the future, the bishops said.

The government-controlled press and broadcast media in Zimbabwe have focused their reporting of the Matabeleland situation on denials and denunciations of foreign press reports, and accusations against Mr Nkomo's ZAPU Party of supporting the dissidents. The party denies this. The bishops took the local media to task for a "singular failure to keep the people of Zimbabwe properly informed of the facts which are common knowledge, both in the areas concerned and outside them through the reports of reliable witnesses.

The facts point to a reign of terror caused by wanton killings, woundings, beatings, burnings and rapings."

The local Catholic magazine MOTO, an exception, devoted much of its March issue to the Army violence in Matabeleland, with a tough editorial comment. The Church's Commission on Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe, for its part, said over the weekend that it was "gravely concerned" about the human rights situation in the southwest.

In addition, the Swedish Government has publicly stated its concern, and several other Western governments are known to have done so privately to the Zimbabwean authorities.

The Catholic Church, which claims to be Zimbabwe's largest single denomination with 630,000 members in a population of 7.6 million, was very active in campaigning for human rights during the guerrilla war for black rule and against policies of the Ian Smith regime which it saw as oppressive and unjust.

The Justice and Peace Commission published several reports condemning atrocities by the white-led Rhodesian security forces against the black population. These earned the commission and to some extent the Church the enmity of the former regime, which deported a number of clergy on charges of aiding the black nationalists.

The new pastoral letter followed a series of private representations by the Church and the commission to the government about the Army's conduct.

Minister Responds to Allegations

MB300822 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The government policy of reconciliation only applies to those people within and outside Zimbabwe who unreservedly accept the national independence and the new socio-economic order in this country. In a statement issued yesterday the minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, Comrade Shamuyariara, stressed that the policy cannot apply to hardcore criminals who have deserted the National Army to perpetrate acts of destroying the country.

The minister said the government has ample evidence that the unholy alliance between these dissidents and the Pretoria regime's military activities is aimed at destablizing the Republic of Zimbabwe. Comrade Shamuyariara said it is the duty of the government not only to maintain law and order, but to repulse an external aggression such as that being organized by the Pretoria regime.

He said the deployment of the security forces in Matabeleland and the operations they have launched in the area are aimed at protecting all the citizens of Zimbabwe against gangs of armed bandits, who are on the payroll of the enmey forces of this country. Comrade Shamuyariara was reacting to allegations by the Zimbabwe Catholic bishops conference that the Zimbabwe National Army was violating human rights during their operations against the dissidents. The minister said the bishops have not produced any evidence to the effect that the security forces have committed acts that amount to violation of human rights. Comrade Shamuyariara pointed out that the crimes alleged to have been committed by the security forces in the Catholic bishops' conference report are in fact acts of the dissidents.

He stressed that the government has the machinery and is always ready to investigate any cases of indiscipline on the part of the members of the National Army, and if any is found guilty of any crime, appropriate measures are always taken. The minister said that, contrary to the allegations made by the Catholic bishops, the operations carried out by the National Army in Matabeleland have created a climate of peace and relief for the population in the area.

He said food supplies and drought relief have now been resumed, and schools and clinics are now functioning normally because of the success scored by the National Army against bandits. Comrade Shamuyariara said the allegations contained in the pastoral statement were compiled and phrased along the line of fabricated reports of the hostile foreign press and are in the interests of those groups who are hostile to Zimbabwe. The minister also said some ZAPU officials have been spreading malicious rumors and stories to inflame the situation in Matabeleland, adding that the government cannot be held responsible for that. He said the dissident problem has been created by the ZAPU elements and some of the party leaders.

NEWSPAPER SUPPORTS EXPULSION OF JOURNALISTS

MB271311 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] A Zimbabwean newspaper, THE SUNDAY MAIL, has supported government action in expelling unwanted journalists. In an editorial it said: Those who have been expelled richly deserve it. The newspaper said it is never realized by many people in the West that when their journalists report on developing countries, particularly in Africa, some of them stop being journalists and put on the garb of propagandists. It says they are interested in sensation and news that discredits African politicians, to prove their theory that Africans are not fit to rule. When they see any (?bickering) politicians, they hunt for their (?tribes) before they able to write (?some report). The newspaper says this is not journalism but a pollution of the profession.

MINISTER SAYS PUBLIC IN MATABELELAND TO BE ARMED

MB290716 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for security, Comrade Munangagwa, says farmers and members of the community in Matabeleland will soon be armed to protect themselves against acts of terror being perpetrated by dissidents. Addressing the 50th annual meeting of the Mashonaland chamber of industires in Harare last night, Comrade Munangagwa said the old agri-alert system will be introduced in dissident-affected areas. He said the government recently met farmers in Bulawayo about the security situation in Matabeleland. Comrade Munangagwa said the Republican Front leader Mr Smith's allegations in Bulawayo that the government was violating human rights by its detention laws were untrue and poisonous. He said the government is fully aware that the prevailing security situation in Matabeleland has a direct bearing on the economic development of the country.

JOSHUA NKOMO TO POSTPONE RETURN TO COUNTRY

AB301743 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] London, March 30 (AFP) -- Joshua Nkomo today said he had decided to postpone his return to Zimbabwe because the government in Harare had rejected a report by the country's Roman Catholic bishops on massacres in Matabeleland. The opposition leader, who fled his country last month, told journalists that he and originally intended to return to Zimbabwe on 6 April. However, the church's publication of its conclusions concerning the massacres by government security forces in Matabeleland, and the rejection of the report by the government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, had made him change his plans, he said.

Mr Nkomo, who arrived in Britain from Bostwana on March 13, did not indicate how long he intended to remain. The British authorities have given him permission to stay until April 12, and a Home Office (interior ministry) spokesman said he would have to apply for an extension if he wanted to prolong his stay.